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CONFIDENTIAL.

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140

PART VII.

# FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

# ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

# ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

1883.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

# Further Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

## PART VII.

### No. 1.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January* 8, 1883.)

(No. 1160. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1148 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 29th instant I paid a visit to Mgr. Nercès, and congratulated him on his resumption of his duties as Armenian Patriarch. His Beatitude informed me that when the Sultan sent for him the other day, His Majesty had accorded him an exceptionally gracious reception, such, he said, as had never been accorded by the Sovereign to a Patriarch of his Church before.

Mgr. Nercès said that he had on that occasion assured His Majesty of the fidelity and devotion of himself and his people to the Ottoman Throne, and had reminded him that the latter had given proof thereof by the material assistance which they had rendered to the Imperial troops in the late war against Russia. He had, however, he said, submitted to His Majesty that the Armenians were expecting some recognition of their fidelity and attachment to his person, and that they trusted His Majesty would deign to take their cause into consideration, and grant them the reforms they solicited, viz., such as would secure to them security for life and property. The Sultan, in reply, he stated, had thanked him, and had expressed to him the feelings of affection which he entertained for his Armenian people, adding that he had their welfare at heart.

Mgr. Nercès then explained to me that he was anxious not to see the Armenians of Turkey fall under the despotic rule of Russia; that he wished them to continue under that of the Sultan, but in an improved condition, and he expressed to me his gratitude for all that Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople had done to further the latter object. He said that he was constantly enjoining his people to have patience, to be calm, and not embark in revolutionary movements, but that it was now a question of living or of dying; and he intimated that as it appeared from accounts which had reached him through travellers that Armenians under Russian rule were prosperous and free from vexatious and barbarous treatment, it would be difficult to continue to induce those in Turkey to maintain their allegiance to the Turkish Government unless the system of government were ameliorated.

I must not omit, however, to mention to your Lordship that his Beatitude remarked that of late fewer complaints had reached the Patriarchate as to the conduct of Turkish officials in Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 2.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 8, 1883.)

(No. 1161.) *Constantinople, December* 31, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1148 of the 26th instant, and to my despatch No. 1160 of to-day's date, I have the honour to state that I asked Mgr. Nercès, the Armenian Patriarch, what news had reached him as to a reported movement at Erzeroum against the Government, and that I at the same time told his Beatitude that, in speaking recently to the Grand Vizier, I had seized the opportunity of impressing upon his Highness the necessity of introducing, without further delay, an improved condition of affairs in that part of the Empire.

Mgr. Nercès expressed to me his thanks for having spoken to Said Pasha in the above sense, and said that he thought, from information which had recently reached him, that no movement of an insurrectionary nature existed in the above-mentioned district, adding that he believed that the suspicion of the authorities there had been aroused by the seizure of some tickets which had been lately issued amongst the Armenians for the collection of money to defray a debt on a monastery at Jerusalem.

It is quite possible, however, that Mgr. Nercès is ignorant of a contemplated insurrectionary movement in Armenia which was reported upon by Major Everett in his despatches Nos. 1 and 3, Confidential, of the 3rd and 20th January last respectively, and in his No. 13, Political, Confidential, of the 5th June last, and which were forwarded to your Lordship in the Earl of Dufferin's despatches No. 94 of the 11th February and No. 529 of the 2nd July, and which movement the above-mentioned officer believed to be directed from Tiflis.

I have the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Eastern Express" of the 30th instant, from which it would appear that the Turkish authorities are on the track of this organization.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 2.

*Extract from the "Eastern Express" of December* 30.

THE NEWS FROM ERZEROUM.—It was reported a few days ago that some arrests had been made at Erzeroum in consequence of information which had reached the authorities. The clue has since been followed up, and it reveals the existence of an organization of considerable extent, but of which the objects are not very clearly defined. They may be styled patriotic, national, revolutionary, or Russian, according to the stand-point from which they are regarded. A considerable number of Armenians have pledged themselves to a "cause," in the interest of which they are bound, if necessary, to shed their blood. The police of Erzeroum have been very active in hunting out the parties to this compact, and they have laid hands on some three hundred of the men engaged in it. The captives are almost all men of low estate, and it does not appear that any leader has been discovered. So far as we can understand the reports which reach us, it would seem that, at a given signal, these banded men were to take the field in small bodies, and begin that sort of guerilla warfare which was employed with advantage to the policy which devised it in the Herzegovina. In pursuing their investigations, the Ottoman authorities wished to search a school in Erzeroum, of which the head-master was a Russian subject. The Russian Consul is reported to have intervened successfully to prevent the search. From this fact certain conclusions will be drawn. The activity of Russian agents in Armenia has been constantly reported for some time past. General opinion will not improbably associate that activity with the present discovery. Russian methods have a strong family likeness, and the political expert would have little difficulty in finding the proper classification for the organization which has been discovered in Armenia.

Since the Treaty of Berlin, the attitude of the Porte towards its Armenian subjects has not been guided by the highest considerations of State policy. Resentment was felt at Clause LXI of the Treaty. There arose in consequence a desire to *passer outre;* the Kurdish league was set up in opposition to it; and a wide opening was thus afforded for the developments of Russian policy. This is all changed now. The Porte



has understood that the Armenian people are loyal, and that their national interests bid them to be loyal. But while the Porte has been changing from plan to plan, another unchanging plan has been pursuing its course, and it has naturally got the start of the Porte's new Armenian policy. So strongly, however, is Armenian feeling opposed to the acceptance of Russian patronage, that it is not even now too late for the Porte to repossess itself of the general sympathy of the Armenian people; and if its policy is steadily directed to this end, there is little to be feared from any such combinations for mischief as that which has been unearthed at Erzeroum.

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No. 3.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 15.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 8, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1111 of the 11th ultimo, and to my conversations with Mgr. Nercès, as recorded in my despatches Nos. 1160 and 1161 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres giving some details respecting the Armenian insurrectionary movement at Erzeroum.

Since the receipt of this despatch I have learnt that neither the Porte nor the Armenians here attach much importance to this movement, but I am told that the Russian Embassy here is doing all it can to exaggerate its consequence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 3.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 3. Confidential.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, December* 18, 1882.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform you that thirty-six Armenians were arrested in this city and thirty-eight in the surrounding villages, seventy-four in all. The Government have now for some days refrained from making any further arrests, it is believed in consequence of orders from the Sublime Porte to that effect.

The prisoners have been kept apart from one another, and the investigation of their conduct has been conducted with great secrecy, and nothing has as yet transpired to give a clue as to the intentions of the Government towards them. The Russian Consul-General has had several interviews with the Vali on this subject.

As far as it is possible for me to judge from the information I have succeeded in obtaining, this movement, however important it might have become in course of time, had it not been checked by discovery, had not attained to any great proportions. The leaders are persons of small consideration and low standing among the Armenian people, and the higher authorities, though they may have been interested spectators, had no connection whatever with the movement, and were for the most part unfavourable to it.

Its object was apparently to form a kind of political club, not with the idea of causing a revolution and of separating the Armenians from the Turkish Empire, but rather to keep the nation together and prevent its being split up into small parties.

That this movement originated with the Russian Armenians there is little doubt, but they apparently had no idea of inducing the Armenians in Turkey to look to Russia as their saviour; on the contrary, their intentions were to wait until such time as a powerful organization might have been formed and then to emigrate from Russia and demand the assistance of the Powers in obtaining privileges for the Armenian nation similar to those possessed by the inhabitants of the Lebanon. It is only the lowest class that looked to Russia to aid them, for those who have any foresight in such matters perceive that such aid would bring about their political extinction.

With these objects, then, the movement was started, but the abstention of all persons of consideration and influence from joining it caused its failure.

The Government of the vilayet is, I believe, now convinced that what they at

first thought was a wide-spread conspiracy to subvert the authority of the Sultan in Armenia is an ill-directed effort of a few ignorant men to ameliorate the position of their nation according to their own ideas of what is best.

It has been suggested that the Governor-General, Mustapha Pasha, was inclined to exaggerate the importance of the affair on account of his tenure of his post being somewhat uncertain, his return having been already talked of and his successor named.

For some days the Mussulmans were much incensed against the Armenians in this town and threatened a massacre; measures had to be taken to prevent any active display of these feelings, and several Turks were arrested. But lately the friction has considerably diminished, and a very good effect was produced by a sermon from the Gregorian Bishop, Ormanian, strongly condemning the national movement, and also by the fact that the Sultan was prayed for last Sunday in the Gregorian Church.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 4.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)*

(No. 9. Commercial.)
*Constantinople, January 15, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Eastern Express," giving a list of some further concessions which have been granted for works of public utility in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 4.

*Extract from the "Eastern Express" of January 8, 1883.*

UN Iradé Impérial rendu sur la proposition du Ministère des Travaux Publics approuvée par le Conseil des Ministres, accorde au sujet Ottoman Siraki Assessani Effendi le privilège pour un terme de cinquante ans, (1) du dessèchement des marais qui couvrent une partie des terrains s'étendant entre la Méditerranée et la plaine d'Adana, ainsi que des marais de la plaine de Messisse (Cilicie) de façon à les rendre propres à l'agriculture; (2) de l'endiguement des Rivières de Ghédos, de Seïhan, et de Djeïhan, qui traversent les plaines de Messisse et viennent se jeter dans la Méditerranée, de façon à les rendre navigables sur leur parcours de Tarsous à Adana et de Messisse jusqu'à leur embouchure pour y établir un service de bateaux à vapeur sous pavillon Ottoman; (3) de l'établissement de canaux d'irrigation dans les plaines de Sis, de Tarsous, d'Adana, et de Messisse; (4) de la construction d'un port à Youmourtalik sur la Baie d'Ayass, avec quais, docks, et bassins. Cette concession est accordée d'après les conditions et charges spécifiées dans les projets de Convention dernièrement publiés par le Ministère des Travaux Publics. Un Iradé Impérial accorde également le privilège pour un terme de cinquante ans de la construction d'une voie ferrée à petit écartement entre Birour-Abad et Parsa, localités sises dans le Vilayet de Smyrne. Cette concession est accordée, d'après les mêmes charges et conditions, au sujet Ottoman Yahya Hayati Effendi et Cie.

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No. 5.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)*

(No. 28.)
*Constantinople, January 15, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti on the subject of the insecurity prevailing in the eastern districts of the Province of Trebizond.

I shall take an opportunity to bring this to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 5.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 56.)
*Trebizond, December 28, 1882.*

Sir,

ON the 13th instant four Greeks from the village of Santa coming to Trebizond were attacked and robbed by four Turks in the vicinity of the village of Varvara, in the Caza of Yomurah.

In the struggle one of the travellers, Polichroni Tsirogloo, was shot dead, and another, Giorgi Panajotogloo, severely wounded in the arm.

The police have hitherto been unable to arrest the culprits, who are not likely to be ever apprehended.

I have often called attention to the insecurity prevailing in the eastern districts of this province, where organized bands commit with impunity daily depredations of a more or less serious character.

They are known to the authorities, who have, however, no sufficient police force to cope with them.

In the Caza of Surmenah there are two bands, that of Tseurekdziogloo and of Kutchuk Ibrahim-oglou.

The Greeks of Santa do not know to which band belong their aggressors, but they are known to the son of the Mussulman Moukhtar of Varvara, from whom they had, two hours before the attack, carried off two sheep.

It is not likely, however, that he may be induced to give information, as he would put his life in jeopardy.

Mussulmans are not more spared than Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 6.

*Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received February 1, 1883.)*

(No. 209.)
*Tehran, December 18, 1882.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 202 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith, in translation, a further telegram, which has been communicated to me by Mirza Saïd Khan, respecting the capture and removal to Mosul of Sheikh Obeidullah and his sons Kadir and Sadik.

The more important items of intelligence contained in this telegram are confirmed by the telegrams received by the Ottoman Ambassador, but his Excellency expresses great doubt as to the truth of the statement that the Sheikh was subjected to personal ill-treatment at the hands of the Turkish officials.

The Turkish Ambassador has, as yet, no information as to the intentions of his Government with respect to the ultimate disposal of the Sheikh, but the Persian authorities persist in their objections to his continued residence at Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

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Inclosure in No. 6.

*Vezir-i-Favayed to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

(Translation.) *December* 7, 1882.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH respect to Sheikh Obeidullah, I have to inform you that the news of his release on the road by his son Kadir, his subsequent recapture by the Ottoman troops, and his having been sent to Mosul with his two sons, is now placed beyond a doubt.

In order to see clear amidst the clouds of contradictory information which reached me from every quarter, I sent Mirza Jevad Khan to Moosa Pasha, the Turkish General. I am now in a position to give an accurate and detailed account of what took place.

Mirza Jevad Khan, whose statement is confirmed by letters from Moosa Pasha and Mustafa Pasha, reports as follows:—

After a series of delays on the road, Sheikh Obeidullah, escorted by Kamil Bey with a detachment of Ottoman troops, arrived at Shihtan. At this place, which is in the centre of the Kurdish district, Sheikh Obeidullah, under the pretext of the illness of his wife, obtained a further delay, which he made use of to excite the tribes and to come to an arrangement with them for his release. Kamil Bey, finding that Shiekh Obeidullah would not stir from Shihtan, began to talk of using strong measures, upon which the Sheikh caused the Kurdish Chiefs to arrest him, together with his Lieutenant, Hassan Agha. The son of Hassan Bey, a Kurdish Chief, struck at Kamil Bey with his sword, but only cut through his coat without drawing blood. The Turkish officers were then made prisoners, together with their escort of less than 100 men. The Sheikh's son Kadir was then informed of what had taken place, that he might collect troops and come to his father's assistance. Kamil Bey, however, managed to bribe three Kurds to convey the news in secret to Moosa Pasha, Mustafa Pasha, and Haji Mohammed Bey, the Ottoman Commanders. Meanwhile, the Sheikh at Shihtan, and his son in the surrounding country, did their best to stir up a rebellion of the tribes. The Turkish troops, however, under the direction of their different commanders, arrived from all directions and surrounded Shihtan. Artillery fire was at once opened upon the castle, and some 200 of the defenders were killed, after which the Sheikh sent out a man with a white flag and proposed a surrender.

The firing then ceased, and one of the Turkish Generals, Hussein Bey, went to the door of the castle to receive Sheikh Obeidullah, who came out in all haste. The Turkish General spat in his face and dragged him by the beard into the midst of the soldiers. Kamil Bey was released, and Hussein Bey then called the Sheikh a hog and a "Jezidi" and struck him in the face. The Sheikh threw himself upon the mercy of Kamil Bey. Kamil Bey told him that he was worse than a hog and a "Jezidi," and that he had already been blamed for having treated him too leniently. The Sheikh's conduct had been shameful, and he would never forgive him. Sadik, the Shiekh's son, was made a prisoner at the same time. The Ottoman troops took possession of more than 300 mule-loads of goods belonging to the Sheikh, and seized all the property of the people of Shihtan. The son of Hassan Bey, the Kurd who struck Kamil Bey with his sword, was made a prisoner with his wife. Mollah Ahmed, a tutor in the Sheikh's household, was dragged from side to side at the end of a rope. Sheikh Obeidullah was placed on a broken-down horse with his feet tied under the belly, and sent off to Mosul with his son Sadik, with Mollah Ahmed, Bedr Khan Bey, the Chief of the Kurdish tribes, and all the Sheikh's family and followers. Kadir having learnt what had happened to his father, took to flight, and his followers and servants dispersed in all directions. When Kadir found himself completely abandoned, he rejoined his father on the road to Mosul, and has gone to that town with him.

Moosa Pasha and Mustafa Pasha have now started for their respective quarters a detachment at Mahri to watch the movements of the tribes; the remainder of the troops have been given furlough or have returned to their usual stations.

Now that everything has come to a fortunate issue, that peace is restored and the camps broken up, I propose to proceed to Tabreez to discharge other duties.

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No. 7.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February* 1.)

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(No. 40. Confidential.) *Constantinople, January* 19, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a further despatch I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres on the subject of the rumoured Armenian insurrectionary movement at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 7.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 4.) *Erzeroum, December* 27, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the Turkish officials have not succeeded in discovering any papers of importance with respect to the Armenian plot, and are, I believe, in a complete state of ignorance as to the aims of the promoters and the extent to which it has spread.

Some more arrests have lately been made, and the investigation into the affair is still being carried on, the Vali, Mustapha Pasha, occasionally being present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 8.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 56.) *Constantinople, January* 25, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Biliotti respecting the appointment of Sirri Pasha as Vali of Trebizond, and reporting very favourably of his Excellency's previous administration of that vilayet.

The Grand Vizier, to whom I yesterday mentioned the substance of Mr. Biliotti's remarks upon Sirri Pasha, assured me that his Excellency would receive the support of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 8.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 2.) *Trebizond, January* 13, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Sirri Pasha has this day arrived from Castamouni and taken possession of his post as Governor-General of the Vilayet of Trebizond, and with reference to your despatch of the 27th ultimo, to report with regard to his previous administration.

He occupied this post from the 7th April, 1879, to the 22nd August, 1881, that is, about twenty-eight months.

On his appointment at that time the administration of this province was so defective that his arrival was anxiously expected in the hope that he would reorganize it.

On the 12th May following I could already testify to the good-will and energy of Sirri Pasha, which forbode an amelioration in the condition of the vilayet, but I explained at the same time the necessity of his being supported by the Porte against local factions, which, in order to throw discredit on, and obtain the dismissal of, a well-

disposed predecessor of Sirri Pasha, with a view to maintain their own assumed authority, had gone so far as to cause not only robberies, but even murders to be perpetrated during his administration.

On my return after an absence of several months on leave of absence, I found a marked amelioration in the condition of this vilayet, and heard nothing but praises of Sirri Pasha, but shortly after, a few intrigues having brought against him a groundless accusation, I brought the fact to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy in my despatch No. 3 of the 25th February, 1880.

A week after I reported in my despatch No. 5 of the 2nd March a fresh false accusation against Sirri Pasha, and his being strongly reprimanded by the Porte without even being asked for explanations.

This proceeding discouraged for a time Sirri Pasha, who had also to contend against Palace influence with regard to Laz immigrants in this vilayet.

However, his energy could not be checked for long; he resumed his usual activity and was rewarded by the Porte taking into consideration his grievances against the newly-established Courts of Justice, as I believe, in consequence of communications made to it by Her Majesty's Embassy (reference to my despatch No. 54 of the 12th November, 1880).

In my despatch No. 64 of the 27th December following, to the latter part of which (from the words "There are families that now monopolize, &c.") I beg to call special attention, I pointed out the difficulties against which have to contend the Valis of Trebizond, and which leave to them only a nominal power, the real one being in the hands of certain natives in, and out of, Government office.

However, with the slight support given to him by the Porte in November, Sirri Pasha was enabled to overcome these difficulties, and even to bring to justice a native Pasha, Rushdi, who was Mutessarif of Lazistan (my despatch No. 34 of the 18th June, 1881).

But as his guilt was proved, and he was about to be condemned, a Memorial sent by his partisans against Sirri Pasha so frightened the Porte that the ex-Vali, Yussuf Pasha, who was here at the time, was wired for information, and instructed to prevent an outbreak by making promises to the leaders of the malcontents, as I reported in my despatch No. 27 of the 16th May, 1881. I beg leave to call attention especially to the latter part of this despatch, from the words "I have had the honour at different times," &c.

From that moment Sirri Pasha lost his prestige, and the party opposed to him was so encouraged that they used all their power to discredit his administration.

The number of outrages augmented in all the vilayet, and for months robberies were nightly perpetrated in the town of Trebizond, where security had prevailed before that time.

At last a fresh alarm of the Porte, caused by Sirri Pasha's adversaries representing the Lazes ready to revolt, decided of his dismissal, and a display of fireworks on the part of his opponents on the eve of his departure contrasted with the consternation which prevailed among the general public.

Though on one or two questions I had disagreed with Sirri Pasha, I could not, however, in justice do otherwise on his departure than express myself as follows (No. 47 of the 15th August, 1881):—

"Sirri Pasha is one of the best Governors-General in Turkey. He is honest, indefatigable in the performance of his duties, full of the best intentions, and at the same time endowed with that activity and energy which are required to carry them out, but he finds nowhere support."

All my colleagues, without exception, shared my opinion of him.

I have taken the liberty to enter in the foregoing details in order to show that an able and well-disposed functionary may be thwarted in his intentions to fulfil his duty towards his Sovereign and the populations confided to his administration by the intrigues of a few scoundrels, whose statements have more weight with the Porte than the conscientious reports of a Governor-General and those of independent authorities.

And also, in the hope that in bringing to mind the past, the recollection may serve to prevent, under the second government of Sirri Pasha, the recurrence of the regrettable turn which public affairs took under his former administration, and which was solely due to his not finding the slightest support at Constantinople.

The news of his appointment here was hailed with the greatest satisfaction by Mussulmans and Christians of all creeds, as well as by the Consular body. The former detractors of Sirri Pasha seem now to be cowed, and if, as I presume, he continues to be the same Vali that he was a year and a-half ago, he can do much to ameliorate the condition of this vilayet, which is far from being flourishing; but he can only do so on the condition that he is not again treated by the Porte as he was on the former occasion.



When it was known here that Sirri Pasha was reappointed to this post, there was a stir among the usually slumbering Government officials. I may cite as an example that that very day, in the single Department of the Tithes, fifty-five mazbatas, which had been waiting for completion or signature, were immediately dispatched. Cases which had been allowed to rest since his departure were at once taken up; numerous Petitions were drawn up to be ready on his arrival, and the public in general appeared to see in it an event from which depended their fate.

In spite of the inclemency of the weather, and of 2 feet of snow in the streets, the whole population, Mussulmans and Christians, school boys comprised, turned out to meet him on his landing.

No better man than Sirri Pasha could, therefore, have been appointed at Trebizond, but I cannot help repeating that the success or failure of his second administration will entirely depend on the latitude which will be allowed to him by the Porte, and by the attitude it will assume towards the perturbators of the public peace of this vilayet, the last of whom are, after all, the enemies of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 9.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February 5.*)

(No. 64.) *Constantinople, January 28, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres, stating that orders have been issued by the Porte not to press the charges against the prisoners who are in custody on suspicion of having been concerned in the late Armenian plot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 9.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 2.) *Erzeroum, January 12, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, with reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 27th December last, that the Vali, Mustapha Pasha, has received orders from the Sublime Porte not to press the charges against the Armenians now in prison on account of their alleged complicity in the revolutionary movement, but to keep them in prison for a few months and then release them.

Many of the prisoners are entirely innocent of the charges brought against them, having had neither share in, nor knowledge of, the plot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 10.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February 12.*)

(No. 74.) *Constantinople, February 1, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1116 of the 11th December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch from

Mr. Acting Consul Eyres on the subject of certain atrocities alleged to have been committed by soldiers at Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 10.

*Acting Consul Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 4.) *Erzeroum, January* 20, 1883.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch of the 11th ultimo concerning alleged atrocities committed by soldiers at Van, I have the honour to inform you that the General in command of the Turkish troops in Hikkiari told me that he was directed by the Mushir, Nafiz Pasha, Commander of the 4th Army Corps, to make an investigation into the matter and ascertain the truth of the allegations. The result of the inquiry, he informed me, was that one case of rape had been clearly proved against some of the soldiers, who were severely punished, but that this crime was committed three years ago. In addition to this, it was discovered that a Binbashi had permitted his battalion to carry on a system of oppression and tyranny against the people of the district. They were compelled to labour without wages, and to furnish horses and carts gratis.

In the Report the General forwarded to the Mushir he strongly recommended that the Binbashi should be dismissed the service, but he did not know whether his recommendation had been acted on.

I have made further inquiries on this subject in Van, but have as yet received no answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 11.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 75.) *Constantinople, February* 3, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1032 of the 11th November last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Mohsin Khan, the Persian Ambassador, informed me yesterday that Sheikh Obeidullah was on the point of being removed from Mosul to Mecca, and I think his Excellency said his son was to accompany him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 12.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 141. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 5, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE received confidential information from the Porte to the effect that it has learnt from its Agents that a "rather considerable movement of Russian troops" is taking place on the frontiers of Asia Minor, and that a large body of men, described as a corps d'armée, was being directed on Batoum; also that a quantity of war material which had hitherto been stored at Alexandropol had been removed to Kars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 13.

*Mr. Eyres to Major Everett.*—(*Received at the Foreign Office, March* 14.)

(No. 2.) *Erzeroum, February* 23, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Vali, Mustapha Pasha, received orders from the Sublime Porte a few days ago to make a fresh judicial investigation into the conduct of the Mutessarif of Bayazid, Ibrahim Effendi, the Porte refusing to accept the mazbata sent by the Council of the vilayet, in which the Mutessarif was stated to be innocent, on the ground that the required forms had not been complied with.

The Vali accordingly issued orders for a new trial, and Saïd Effendi, one of the Mussulman members of the Council of the vilayet, has been nominated accuser.

Hitherto the trial has not begun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 14.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 173. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 24, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Hadji Izzet Pasha has been appointed Governor-General of the Vilayet of Broussa, in the place of Ahmed Vevyk Pasha.

Izzet Pasha has previously occupied the post of Vali in several provinces, amongst others in that of the Hedjaz, but though a man of considerable education and intelligence, he is said to be extremely fanatical, and his various Administrations have never, I am informed, been distinguished by the introduction of any reforms or improvements.

I also learn that Ibrahim Pasha, late Governor-General of Balta, has been appointed Vali of Beyrout, and that Halil Bey will succeed him in the Governorship of Balta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 15.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 176. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 26, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, in which he states that within the last fortnight rumours have been afloat of a disquieting nature with regard to the intentions of Russia as to the Vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum.

In my despatch No. 141, Confidential, of the 5th instant, I announced to your Lordship certain information which I had obtained confidentially from the Porte as to reported movements of troops towards Batoum, and as to the storing of large quantities of war material at Kars. I have since then learnt from the Turkish Government that Shakir Pasha reports from St. Petersburgh that the Russians have raised the numerical strength of the Caucasian army along the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia Minor to 80,000 men, and that they are in a position to cross the frontier into Turkish territory with an army of 150,000 men. The French Ambassador spoke to me the other day on the reported activity of the Russians in Bulgaria and on the frontiers of Armenia, and told me that, according to information which he had received from the French Consul at Erzeroum, there were about 60,000 Russian troops near that part of the Turco-Russian frontier.

Major Trotter tells me that the French Consul in question was generally inaccurately informed, but I think it is as well to report to your Lordship what M. de Noailles had heard from him as to the concentration of Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 15.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 5.) *Trebizond, March* 10, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that since a fortnight there are rumours afloat that the Russians are soon to occupy the Vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum.

It is said that the rumours originated in an indiscretion on the part of one of the employés of the Russian Consulate.

However, besides a few circumstances of too trifling a character to be reported, which give a semblance of truth to the said indiscretion, there is no unusual important outward sign to show that there is at present any real ground for the assertion.

On the other hand, it is strange that the last mail should have brought identical news from Erzeroum, and it may be questioned whether the simultaneous circulation of similar reports in both places is due to mere chance.

That the Russians cherish the idea of annexing the two fore-mentioned vilayets to their newly-acquired territory in Anatolia is not to be questioned, and it is as certain that they are quite ready to carry out their intentions as soon as they can find a specious pretext to shield their moral responsibility.

I have reported at the time that the Cancellier of the Russian Consulate here, Colonel Charkowski, availed himself of his three years' residence here to minutely survey all the country between this and Erzeroum. A few months back the Russian Government authorized him to take service in Persia, with the rank of General of Brigade.

Six months since, a Russian, who, according to all probabilities, was an officer in disguise, travelled in many parts of this vilayet, accompanied by the Dragoman of the Russian Consulate. This was shortly after Colonel Charkowski's departure from this town.

As it appears from my different Reports on the subject there is at Batoum a formidable artillery, which can be placed in position at a moment's notice.

There seems to be in the Caucasus an army of 75,000 men,—a more imposing force than that which was kept there even during the last war.

Sheikh Obeidullah's freak, if not planned by Russia, has had for result to show that the 4th Turkish Army Corps consists of a little more than 10,000 ill-clad and starving troops, incapable to offer a very serious resistance.

And the Russians know that no opposition is to be expected from the Mussulman population, which, being quite discouraged, would accept a change with the greatest apathy, if not with satisfaction.

Under these circumstances, I consider it my duty to report all rumours on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 16.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 2.)*

(No. 185. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 176, Confidential, of the 26th instant, in which I forwarded to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Biliotti, Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, and conveyed to you some information which I had obtained from the French Ambassador as to rumoured military preparations on the part of Russia on the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia Minor, I have the honour to report that, in course of conversation last night with the Persian Ambassador, his Excellency informed me confidentially, in reply to a question I addressed to him as to whether he had any news as to Russian movements on that frontier, that he had very detailed information on the subject, and that the Russians had 70,000 men and eighty guns stationed between Batoum and Bayazid.

His Excellency also remarked that he believed that if Sheikh Obeidullah had succeeded in effecting his escape a short time ago from the Turkish troops who were escorting him to Mossoul, the Russians would probably have seized that as a pretext



for crossing the frontier. This is probably a mere supposition on the part of Mochsin Khan, but there is, no doubt, great uneasiness here as to the intentions of Russia with regard to Armenia, owing to her apparently having such a large force on that frontier, which is but weakly guarded on the part of the Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 17.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No 108. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April* 5, 1883.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have repeatedly urged the Sultan and his Ministers to carry out the obligations devolving upon Turkey under the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Their representations, whether made in the name of this country alone, or in concert with the other Great Powers, have, I regret to say, not led to any satisfactory result.

When Mr. Goschen proceeded to Constantinople in May 1880 as the Queen's Special Ambassador he was furnished with full instructions as to the steps he was to take to endeavour to insure the fulfilment of the Porte's Treaty engagements with regard to the reforms to be introduced into the provinces inhabited by Armenians, as well as with regard to other questions still remaining unsettled.

The result of Mr. Goschen's consultations with the Representatives of the other Treaty Powers was that, on the 11th June, 1880, they addressed to the Porte an identic note drawing its attention to the obligations of Turkey, and they demanded the complete and immediate execution of the LXIst Article, and called upon the Porte to state explicitly the steps which it had taken with regard to it.

The reply of the Porte, which was dated the 5th July, was not considered satisfactory by the Powers, and on the 7th September their Representatives addressed a collective note to the Turkish Government. In it they pointed out that the proposals contained in the Turkish note did not meet either the spirit or the letter of the Treaty, and they stated that measures of a much broader character would be necessary in order to carry out the engagements made at Berlin. The Ambassadors then proceeded to criticize in detail the Porte's proposals, and stated that it was absolutely necessary that the Turkish Government should carry out, without loss of time, reforms intended to secure the life and property of the Armenians, and that they should take immediate measures against the incursions of the Kurds, place the gendarmerie on a more satisfactory footing, and, above all, give to the Governor-General of the province greater security of office and a more extended responsibility. "In conclusion," the note said, "the Powers once more recall to the Sublime Porte the essential fact that the reforms to be introduced into the provinces inhabited by the Armenians are by Treaty engagements to be adapted to local wants, and to be carried out under the supervision of the Powers."

On the 3rd October the Porte issued a Circular to its Representatives abroad, and in the portion of it referring to the LXIst Article of the Berlin Treaty it announced that, the necessary preliminary inquiries having been completed, it had determined to institute certain measures of reform.

This Circular does not appear to have been intended as a reply to the collective note of the 7th September, nor was it so regarded by the Powers, but the course of the negotiations with the Porte respecting the Greek frontier and other matters led to there being no further joint action on the part of the Powers till the following September. At your first interview with the Sultan, shortly after your arrival at Constantinople as Her Majesty's Ambassador, your Excellency received from His Majesty assurances that he was quite alive to the necessities of the situation, and that he rejoiced to think that, being released from the distressing preoccupations entailed by war and its consequences, he would be at liberty to turn to the more congenial task of promoting the internal good government and prosperity of his realm.

Such assurances as these gave Her Majesty's Government good ground for the hope that any well-considered scheme of reforms which should meet with the entire approval of the Powers would be acceptable to the Sultan, and your Excellency accordingly brought the question under the consideration of your colleagues. Amongst

the proposals which you submitted to them, and which met with their approval, was the immediate dispatch by the Sultan of a High Commissioner to the disorganized districts of Asia Minor. Upon your mentioning this suggestion to the Sultan His Majesty assured you that one a month should have elapsed such an appointment would be made, and six weeks later (9th November, 1881) sent you a message to the effect that the question of reforms would be satisfactorily settled. No High Commissioner being, however, appointed, your Excellency and the Russian Ambassador, with the sanction of your colleagues, made remonstrances at the Porte at this delay; and in a note which you addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, after recapitulating the various steps your Excellency had taken, and the assurances you had received, you requested an audience of the Sultan, in order once again to bring the question before His Majesty. In return you received vague assurances of an intention to fulfil the promises made by the Sultan, and unsatisfactory explanations of the reasons for delay.

On the 14th December your Excellency was received by the Sultan. You reminded His Majesty that a month had been named as the term within which the nomination of a High Commissioner was to have taken place, and that four months had elapsed without any such appointment having been made. His Majesty admitted having made such a promise, but gave as his reasons for his inability to act up to it the difficulty of finding a person fitted for the post, and the complex nature of the instructions which should be given to the person when selected. The Sultan, however, gave you the most solemn assurances of his determination to execute the reforms which he was under obligation to introduce. His Majesty's words were: "I, the Sovereign of this country, tell you that I intend to carry out the programme which my Government voluntarily communicated to Europe in its note of the 3rd October. Let the English Government have patience and show confidence in me, and they will be satisfied."

The Ambassadors had, on the 4th October, 1881, deputed to your Excellency and your Russian colleague the task of drafting a scheme of reforms, founded on the recommendations made by Sir Charles Wilson and Major Trotter. The scheme was submitted to a Conference of the Ambassadors on the 9th February, 1882, and received their unanimous concurrence.

The above are the chief phases through which the question has passed during a period of nearly three years.

It is in virtue of the position of this country as a Signatory of the Treaty of Berlin that Her Majesty's present advisers have hitherto made representations to the Sultan and his Government with regard to its LXIst Article; they have done so because they thought that it would be more agreeable to His Majesty to receive recommendations in that form, and in order to avoid the appearance of undue interference on the part of any single Power in a matter which affects the welfare of the Ottoman Empire, and should therefore be of interest to all of the Powers. Those representations having failed to produce any result, Her Majesty's Government have taken into consideration the advisability of reminding the Sultan of the obligations which His Majesty contracted with this country under the Anglo-Turkish Convention of the 4th June, 1878. His Majesty therein promised to England to introduce necessary reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two Powers, into the government and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in Asia. It was on that condition that this country engaged in specified eventualities to give to the Sultan armed assistance in defence of his territories in Asia. But nothing has been done to give a living force to this contingent obligation; and, unless a great change of the nature described in this despatch shall promptly take place in the policy of the Ottoman Government as it affects the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, he can hardly expect that this country will feel itself bound to perform its part of a bilateral engagement while the obligations undertaken by the other Contracting Party are entirely neglected.

Her Majesty's Government wish your Excellency, when you pass through Constantinople next month, to seek an opportunity of bringing the question of reforms once more before the Sultan. Your Excellency is so well acquainted with the various considerations which are likely to influence His Majesty that I leave the mode of dealing with the question entirely to your discretion.

Her Majesty's Government are actuated by a sincere desire for the welfare and stability of the Ottoman Empire. They have pressed upon the Sultan the introduction of reforms primarily on behalf of the suffering populations, but also from the conviction that, without great improvements in general government and in the administration of justice, there can be no content, and that with peoples of various nationalities and



different faiths, such as those who inhabit the Asiatic provinces of the Empire, the maintenance of order is rendered doubly difficult by gross misgovernment and a total absence of justice. In fact, the present state of Asia Minor is such that the grievances under which its inhabitants labour may at any moment bring about an insurrection which may lead to foreign intervention. It would then be not a question only of a further loss of territory in Asia, but the very existence of the Sultan's Empire might prove to be at stake.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 18.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)*

(No. 189.) *Constantinople, March 29, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 176 and 185 of the 26th and 27th March respectively, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Erzeroum, to which I beg to call your Lordship's attention, respecting the reported concentration of Russian troops on the Turkish frontier and the consequent alarm of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 18.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 7.) *Erzeroum, March 7, 1883.*

Sir,

VARIOUS rumours have lately come to my ears concerning the assembling of a large body of troops near the Turkish frontier, but I have hitherto delayed to make any report in the hope of obtaining reliable information on the subject. But so far it has been impossible to discover any person who can give me news on which I can rely, the weather having been lately so severe that no travellers have arrived from that direction.

Still it is evident, from the excessive perturbation of the Turkish authorities, that these rumours are founded on fact. The Vali, Mustapha Pasha, has interchanged many telegrams on the subject with the Sublime Porte. I learn that he has been ordered to send trustworthy persons to watch the movements of the troops and to discover their intentions.

Natiz Pasha, the Commander of the 4th Army Corps, left Erzinghian at a moment's notice in order to proceed to Trebizond and survey the condition of the main road to Erzeroum.

A telegram from the Persian frontier reckons the number of Russian troops now assembled at 130,000 men, but this must almost certainly be a gross exaggeration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 19.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 9.)*

(No. 203.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour, with reference to the telegram I addressed to your Lordship on the 19th ultimo, and to your telegram of the 20th ultimo, to report that I have given and shall continue to give such unofficial support as I properly can to Mr. Edward Cazalet, who is here with a view of obtaining a Concession for a line of railway from a point on the Syrian coast to a port at the head of the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Cazalet has been good enough to furnish me with copies of a Memorandum which he has drawn up setting forth the object he has in view, and I have caused the original to be given privately by Sir Alfred Sandison to Munir Bey, Grand Master of the Ceremonies, who has undertaken to submit it to His Majesty the Sultan, and I have also

privately requested his Excellency to endeavour to procure for Mr. Cazalet an audience of His Majesty. I do myself the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of Mr. Cazalet's Memorandum in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 19.

*Memorandum by Mr. E. Cazalet, submitted to His Majesty the Sultan.*

Sire,

LE projet conçu par le Soussigné, Edward Cazalet, est de poser les bases d'une entreprise dont le but est de défendre les intérêts politiques et commerciaux de l'Empire Ottoman, tout en sauvegardant ceux de la Grande-Bretagne.

Ce projet consiste à relier le littoral oriental de la Méditerranée au Golfe Persique par une ligne ferrée qui, partant d'un port entre Alexandrette et Tripoli, suivrait le cours de la Rivière l'Euphrate par la rive droite pour aboutir d'un côté à Bagdad et de l'autre au Port de Grau, sur le Golfe Persique. Le point de départ ainsi que le tracé exact de ce chemin de fer seraient déterminés après une étude approfondie par le Gouvernement Impérial et les ingénieurs que le Soussigné présenterait.

La construction de cette ligne nécessitera probablement un capital de 9 à 10 millions de livres sterling.

Le Soussigné propose de former une Compagnie Anglo-Turque qui émettrait l'équivalent de cette somme en actions et en obligations. Une partie des actions serait réservée pour être offerte à la souscription au Gouvernement et au peuple Ottomans afin que les deux nations soient intéressées dans l'entreprise.

Pour assurer autant que possible le succès de l'œuvre il est nécessaire que le Gouvernement Impérial concède à la Compagnie des terrains longeant la ligne ferrée, soit au minimum 2½ kilom. carrés des deux côtés de la ligne pour chaque kilomètre de chemin de fer construit—terrains pris en bloc dans les endroits où le Gouvernement peut en disposer et qui seront le plus avantageux pour la Compagnie. Celle-ci aura le droit de louer ou de vendre ces terrains à tout individu qui soit déjà ou qui devienne sujet Ottoman.

En dédommagement de cette cession de terrains le Gouvernement Impérial recevrait en actions de la Compagnie 10 pour cent sur toutes les actions émises, à la condition cependant que ces actions ne porteront aucun intérêt jusqu'à ce que les actions des sociétaires aient reçu 5 pour cent sur le capital versé. Un précédent analogue a été établi par la Compagnie du Canal de Suez, et il est notoire que les actions de cette catégorie ont acquis à l'heure qu'il est une valeur trois fois supérieure à leur valeur primitive.

Quant aux avantages politiques qui découleraient pour la Turquie d'une pareille entreprise, il n'est pas difficile de s'en rendre compte:—

1. L'Angleterre aura une seconde route pour les Indes, ce qui lui permettra d'attacher moins d'importance à la route de Suez et facilitera une entente entre les deux pays pour le réglement définitif de la question Égyptienne.

2. Un chemin de fer Anglo-Turc aboutissant au Golfe Persique construit dans les conditions susindiquées ne peut, le Soussigné en a la conviction, que rendre effective la Convention Anglo-Turque pour le protectorat contre une invasion Slave des possessions Asiatiques de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, vu que l'Angleterre se trouverait dans la nécessité de défendre cette nouvelle route des Indes.

3. Une liaison aussi étroite entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie aurait pour résultat de rehausser le prestige et le crédit de l'Empire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, de faciliter l'affluence des capitaux étrangers en Turquie, et contribuerait largement à assurer le repos, la sécurité, et la prospérité dont le pays a si grand besoin. Enfin, une entreprise qui a pour base les intérêts commerciaux non seulement des deux pays mais du monde entier, ne saurait causer une opposition légitime de la part d'aucune autre Puissance.

4. A une œuvre de cette nature l'appui de l'Allemagne ne saurait faire défaut, car cette Puissance a toujours eu à cœur le maintien des intérêts de l'Empire Ottoman en Orient. Comme conséquence naturelle, il en résulterait une alliance entre les trois Puissances, la Turquie, l'Allemagne, et Angleterre, ce qui constituera le plus sûr garant de la paix et du progrès en Orient.

Formant de tout son cœur des vœux pour la prospérité du Grand Empire de



votre Majesté et le soutien de l'influence bienfaisante du Califat, le Soussigné à l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) EDWARD CAZALET.

*Constantinople, le 12/24 Mars*, 1883.

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No. 20.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Earl Granville.—(Received April 11.)*

(Confidential.)

*Theddingworth, Rugby, April 9, 1883.*

My Lord,

AT the interview which your Lordship accorded me about a month ago I said a few words to the effect that, unless something could be done to better the condition of the country comprising my Consular district, there was some danger of Russian intervention.

Owing to the shortness of that interview, I had not the opportunity of giving your Lordship as much information as I should have wished. For this reason, and on account of the urgency of the question, I have thought it desirable to present the remainder in the form of a despatch.

I need not take up your Lordship's time with any detailed statement of the facts which have led me to the above-mentioned conclusion. I think most of them are already in your Lordship's possession. I will merely summarize them, in order to expose, in a more condensed form than hitherto, the measures that are being employed by Russia to prepare the way for an occupation, and the elements of disturbance existing in the country that are favourable to the promotion of her ends.

Briefly, the preparation from without consists in a steady endeavour to foment existing discontent among the Christians and other oppressed races, with a view to step in as a saviour, when one or other of these races, goaded into action, shall have brought upon themselves the vengeance of the dominant race.

This may be well illustrated by the conduct of Russia towards the Armenians. To those within her territory she has shown a liberty previously unknown to them, a liberty, though, which the Armenians of Turkey have only been permitted to hear of. Time after time during the past three years have the oppressed Armenians of the Turkish frontier provinces begged and entreated the Russians to be allowed to occupy the villages vacated by the thousands of Moslems who, since the war, have emigrated from Russia westward, but they have ever met with refusal, and the villages have been filled with Greeks and Malagans. Certainly no scheme could have been better devised to produce discontent, for Armenians passing from Russia into Turkey publish the advantages of Russian rule, while the Armenians dwelling in Turkey are continually being exasperated by their inability to partake of the liberty enjoyed by their compatriots in Russia.

It is hardly necessary for me to speak of the agents of Russia who are perpetually traversing the country. As your Lordship knows, I have traced them as far west as Sivas, into the Dersim, and south as far as Diarbekir and Mosul. True, we can only catch vague glimpses of what they are doing, but no one residing there, with his eyes open, can be for a moment deceived.

Your Lordship is also acquainted with the fact that a General officer of the Russian Staff occupies the position of Consul-General at Erzeroum. In addition to his ordinary staff, he has a cavalry officer as his Secretary, while other military men are constantly visiting him from Kars or elsewhere. Under him is a military Vice-Consul at Van, a man of considerable ability, and possessing great influence with the Armenians.

The following incident will show your Lordship how ready the Erzeroum Consul is to take advantage of any opportunity to further the policy of his Government. During the late campaign in Egypt a report emanated from the Russian Consulate at Erzeroum that the English had hoisted the British flag in Alexandria. The object of spreading this report was, I believe, to excite the Mahommedans against the Christians, for I have since learnt, on excellent authority, that General Denuet informed certain Armenians that, if the Turks made any attempt at a massacre, they would not hesitate to march in to the rescue. Certainly, few other means were better calculated to produce such a result. That no disturbance took place is probably due to the straightforward and firm conduct of Moussa Pasha, the Commandant, who, calling

together the chief Mollahs, informed them that he should hold them responsible for any outbreak, and also not less to the frequent telegrams forwarded from time to time by Her Majesty's Ambassador, which enabled me to contradict all false rumours.

As to the elements of disturbance existing in the country, we are aware of a revolutionary movement on foot among the Armenians in Turkey, which, there is every reason to believe, is being secretly backed by Russia, or, at all events, by Armenians in Russia, with the tacit consent of their Government. This movement came to light the other day, but, as previous despatches have informed your Lordship, it is not possible for any man taken to betray his leaders, and I was therefore not surprised to learn, in a private letter lately received from Mr. Eyres, our Acting Consul at Erzeroum, that the real chiefs were not discovered.

Lastly, there is in the district of the Dersim a population numbering, according to Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, some 60,000 souls who are so averse to Turkish rule that the same officer states "it would be difficult to decide which of the two subject races, the Armenian or the Kizilbash Kurd, hate the Osmanli and the Government the most." The Dersim Kurds have a reputation for courage, and will certainly assist an invader provided he is successful. They were visited by a Russian officer during the winter of 1881-82, and have lately become very friendly with the Armenians of Erzingan, a district adjoining their own.

Perhaps the worst feature about these facts is that they are incontestable. There is no doubt that every day's delay in bettering the condition of the country is being taken advantage of by Russia to aggravate the existing discontent, to gain the good-will of the subject races, and by a careful military study of the country to be ready to reap to the full when the proper season arrives. It is of course difficult to predict with any accuracy when her plans will be considered mature. I can only inform your Lordship that, if matters are allowed to drift on as they have hitherto drifted, a military occupation of the country by Russia must eventually be the result.

In the abstract I do not suppose any one could object to seeing Russia take either a part or the whole of Turkey in Asia. It cannot be said that the Government of Russia is all that is to be desired; it would not be very popular, nor very liberal, nor very merciful, and it would not be less corrupt than that of Turkey. But, on the other hand, it would undeniably lead to the construction of good communications, it would be the means of opening up the country to trade, of a certain security for life and property, of the introduction of arts and sciences, and of the promotion of individual enterprise and wealth; and if these were the only questions to be considered, I think most people who have witnessed the amount of human suffering existing in the country at this moment would say, "Let Russia take it, and the sooner the better." But if I understand the question aright, we have to consider in addition, firstly, whether the occupation of the country by Russia would so put an end to the problem as to give her no possible excuse for further interference; and, secondly, whether such an occupation would affect English interests.

In order to estimate how far a settlement of the question is to be found in a Russian occupation, it is necessary to define the new frontiers. It is preposterous to suppose that Russia would be permitted to advance any considerable distance into Anatolia. It is equally preposterous to take for granted that she will be contented with Erzeroum. Therefore, and for the sake of argument, let it be assumed that the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Trebizond, Kharput, Diarbekir, and Van are in her hands. These limits are not taken haphazard. They comprise, with the exception of Trebizond, the troubled area from which the principal appeal for assistance comes. An occupation for the ostensible purpose of helping distressed Christians could not well be less. I will not say it might not be more.

By such an arrangement a large proportion of suffering Christians will be taken under her protection, and will enjoy the advantages I have enumerated above, but not all. There will still be left outside her frontiers the Armenians of Sivas, the Armenians of Cilicia, and the Christian population of the remainder of the Anatolian peninsula; among these her active agents, political and military, will be again pushed forward, and a repetition of the aggressive policy we are now witnessing will be again enacted, the only difference being a change of scene.

That we shall be nearer the solution of the question is true, but only so on the reasoning that every piece of Turkey taken by a Christian Power contracts the troubled area. The condition of things outside the new territory acquired by Russia would be precisely as it is now. The want of reform and the difficulty of effecting it will



be felt as now, and complaints from Christians in Asiatic Turkey will be as loud as ever. Thus, it is evident that the question, if it consists in relieving the Christian subjects of the Porte from Moslem oppression, will not be solved by Russian occupation of a portion of the countries inhabited by them.

It is out of my province to say anything about British interests. What affected us yesterday may not do so to-day; what is highly interesting to us at this moment in the opinion of one set of men is in the opinion of another set unimportant. Thus, there are military men who believe that it would be highly dangerous to allow Russia to reach the neighbourhood of Scanderoon or approach the Persian Gulf, because such advances would threaten our road to India by the Canal, while other high authorities assert that, with the greater facilities now existing, our true road to India is and always will be round the Cape of Good Hope. Leaving such questions to those who are competent to discuss them, I will merely sketch very briefly the position of Russia in this part of Asia at the present moment, and enumerate the more important advantages she would gain by some such an advance as I have indicated above.

Thanks to the numerous opportunities which have been afforded me, I am well acquainted with the present frontier from one end to the other. The northern portion from the Black Sea to Olti crosses country of so difficult a nature that military movements are next to impossible. It is a barrier which neither side can conveniently cross.

The middle piece from Olti to the Kösse Dagh is too well known to need description. Both nations would meet with difficulties in crossing to the other's territory; but in considering an attack by Russia on Erzeroum, all other things being equal, topographically considered, the advantage is decidedly with Turkey.

Throughout the third portion of the frontier, from the Kösse Dagh to Ararat, we find Russia and Turkey dividing the crests of a chain of mountains; but the advantage is with Russia. She is in this portion much in the position of a man at the top of a wall, and she has but to jump down to gain Bayazid, Van, and the valley of the Murad Su (Eastern Euphrates), leading her to Kharput and Diarbekir.

The main advantages, then, of an advance of Russia to a position such as I have described above would be—

1. In the north: removal out of the tangled mass of mountains in which she is now involved to a frontier far more suitable for a further westerly advance, with Trebizond as a new auxiliary post.

2. In the centre: removal from a position where, other things being equal, she is at a disadvantage, to the valley of the Euphrates. Possession of the magnificent plains of Erzeroum, Erzingan, and Kharput. An advance to a point only 250 miles distant from Scanderoon.

3. In the south: the possession of Diarbekir and the fine plains of Northern Mesopotamia and the Upper Tigris.

4. Generally speaking: the enormous advantage of having made herself master of the plateau of Armenia, and all that difficult mountainous country which, hanging from it, constitutes the principal barrier at present to an advance either westward to Constantinople, south-westward to Scanderoon, or southward towards the Persian Gulf.

Lastly, an excellent position on the flank of any line of railway that might be laid down from the neighbourhood of Aleppo to the eastward.

It may perhaps be asked why, considering the nature of the country that must be passed over to attain these limits, no account has been taken of the Turkish army. I suppose, if sufficient time were given beforehand, some attempt would be made to defend the country, but it is questionable whether, at present, the Turkish army is in a position to stem an unadvertised advance of Russia.

Last autumn every available man from these and some neighbouring vilayets was mobilized in the vicinity of Van, ostensibly for the purpose of preventing Sheikh Obeidullah from organizing a rebellion. The result was an army of some twenty-seven battalions of infantry, a few squadrons of cavalry, and a battery or two of artillery, forming an ill-clad, ill-fed, and ill-equipped force of only 10,000 men, whose sole means of existence on the line of march was the food they obtained at the hands of the Christians.

There are, too, other reasons for supposing that, in the event of Russia determining to invade Turkish territory, we should not again witness the gallant defence which was made by the Turks in the last campaign. For not only is the service most unpopular, but there is the demoralization produced by the memory of recent defeat still fresh among the officers and older men. It is also certain, as I have already

pointed out, that the theatre of war would be swarming with the adherents of Russia before a single Russian soldier steps over the frontier.

I have only to add that most of this despatch was written before the appearance in the papers of the letters from Varna and Trebizond, and but for illness would have been forwarded to your Lordship a month ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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No. 21.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 121.) *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1883.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and said, in the course of conversation, that he had noticed a statement made in the House of Commons by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, in answer to a question of Sir H. Wolff, to the effect that Lord Dufferin had been furnished with instructions in regard to the introduction of reforms in Armenia. Musurus Pasha asked if I could inform him of the nature of these instructions.

I told his Excellency that there was nothing in the instructions with which I should object to acquaint him, but that I thought it would be more convenient to allow Lord Dufferin to communicate them himself to the Porte when he visited Constantinople next month on his way home.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 22.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received April* 18.)

*Constantinople, April* 6, 1883.

(No. 205.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 189 of the 20th ultimo and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres, stating that orders have been received at Erzeroum from the Porte directing the retention in the army of soldiers who have completed their term of service.

Mr. Consul Biliotti in a despatch, of which I have also the honour of transmitting a copy, states that orders have been received by the Trebizond authorities to withhold leave-tickets from Redifs of the first ban who have not yet received them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

*Erzeroum, March* 20, 1883.

(No. 8.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that telegraphic orders were received by the authorities here from the Porte to the effect that all the regular soldiers who had finished their term of service, and who would have been drafted into the Redifs in the ordinary course, should be retained in the ranks till further notice.

Rumours are current also that the Redifs will be shortly called out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 9.) *Trebizond, March* 20, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the military authorities at Trebizond have lately received orders not to deliver their leave-tickets to the Redifs of the first ban who have not yet received them.

However, according to the opinion of Turkish military officers here, it is out of the question that the reserves should ever be called under the standard.

4,000*l.* are required for the mobilization of each regiment of Redifs, and a similar monthly sum for their maintenance in the field, giving a total of 64,000*l.* for the first month and of 32,000*l.* for each following month, and there is no available money in the Treasury of the 4th Army Corps.

It would seem that when troops had to be sent against Obeidullah, the Government were compelled to draw the little money which was in reserve in the military chests in the districts for the payment of rations, &c., of the few troops quartered there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 23.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 222.) *Constantinople, April* 12, 1883.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 28 of the 15th January last I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I had called the attention of the Sublime Porte to a despatch which I had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond respecting a murderous attack that had been made by brigands upon four Christians of Santa, and the general state of insecurity that existed in the eastern districts of the Vilayet of Trebizond.

In consequence of my representations, the Vali of that vilayet was instructed by the Sublime Porte to furnish a report upon the outrage in question, and I am now informed that a reply has been received from Sirri Pasha, stating that everything has been done to bring the criminals to justice. One of them has already been arrested and imprisoned, but owing to the reluctance of the Christians to give evidence, some difficulty is experienced in identifying the rest of the band. Sirri Pasha, however, states that he is still doing all he can in the matter, and that he has sent orders to the authorities of the cazas to which the brigands are supposed to belong to do everything in their power to identify them and to bring them to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 24.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received May* 11, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 53.) *Constantinople, May* 11, 1883, 8·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAD a long conversation yesterday with the Sultan about Armenia, and complied carefully with all the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 108 of the 5th April. I revived the suggestion that Mouklar Pasha should be sent with full powers as Commissioner.

The Sultan is taking counsel to-day with the Austrian and German Ambassadors, and they have promised to support my proposition.

The Sultan is to see me again before I start on Tuesday, and will give me a written document containing his personal views on these and other matters.

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No. 25.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received by telegraph, May 11.)*

(No. 203. Confidential. Ext. 53.)
*Constantinople, May 11, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had a long conversation with the Sultan about Armenia, and that I complied carefully with all the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 108 of the 5th ultimo.

I revived the suggestion, that Moukhtar Pasha should be sent with full powers as Commissioner. The Sultan is taking counsel to-day with the Austrian and German Ambassadors, who have both promised to support my proposition.

His Majesty is to see me again before I start, which I propose doing on Tuesday next, and will give me a written document containing his personal views on these and other subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 26.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)*

(No. 301.)
*Constantinople, May 12, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch No. 1137 of the 22nd December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch No. 13 of the 28th ultimo from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres on the subject of the dismissal from the Ottoman service of the Mutessarif of Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(For the Earl of Dufferin),
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 26.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 13.)
*Erzeroum, April 28, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Krikor Effendi Shabanian has received a private telegram announcing that the Mutessarif of Bayazid has been dismissed from the service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 27.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)*

(No. 302.)
*Constantinople, May 12, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres on the subject of the continued detention in prison of the Armenians accused of complicity in the late revolutionary movement at Erzeroum.

Sir A. Sandison has, at Mr. Wyndham's request, read this despatch to Aarifi Pasha, and has pointed out that an act of clemency would appear more likely to produce a good result than continued severity.

I have, &c.
(For the Earl of Dufferin),
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 27.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 10. Confidential.)
*Erzeroum, April 6, 1883.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 12th January, I have the honour to inform you that the Armenians arrested for complicity in the revolutionary movement in this city still remain in prison to the number of about fifty persons, and no steps have hitherto been taken to decide their case.

As mentioned in my despatch No. 4 of the 27th December last, an investigation was held in secret, and the information obtained thereby was dispatched to Constantinople in order that the Council of Ministers might decide what course was to be pursued. I have lately been informed that the Council was prepared to give orders for the release of the prisoners, and even discharged one Armenian who had been arrested at Constantinople. But before finally deciding on this course, the Council asked the opinion of the Governor-General here as to the matter. His reply was so adverse, and so strongly worded, that the Council was afraid to take the responsibility of such action upon themselves, and refrained from giving the necessary orders.

The panic which has seized upon the Vali with reference to this question can only be explained as arising from his crass stupidity and entire ignorance of the condition of the people he governs. That the feelings of the Armenians are to a certain extent aroused, and that they look forward to a day not far distant when they shall obtain their long-promised reforms, is indisputable, but to believe that danger can arise to the Turkish rule in these parts from any internal movement of the Armenian people, unassisted from without, is little less than a childish absurdity. It is well known now to every one here that this movement received no impulse from Russia or Russians, but there were certain Russian Armenians who took part in it at the commencement, not in the interests of Russia, but from patriotic motives.

The Russian Consul-General, however, did his best to fan the flame of rebellion, and desired that it should be believed among the Armenians, and by his own superiors, that he was the principal agent and instigator of the plot. At the same time, he frequently visited the Vali, magnified the importance of the affair, counselled the greatest severity, and crowned his intrigues by telling his Excellency that there was no question but that this revolutionary plot was due to the presence of the English Military Consuls in Asia Minor and Armenia. And Mustapha Pasha believed that General Dennet was perfectly sincere, thanked him, and called him "the only friend of the Empire."

It is owing to this matter that Monseigneur Ormanian, the Gregorian Bishop, has been compelled to return to Constantinople. For a long time he has not been on good terms with the Governor-General, but latterly there has almost been an open feud between them. The Bishop's influence among his people was undermined by the determined opposition shown to him by the Vali, and he was exposed to all kinds of insults and humiliations. Monseigneur Ormanian also desires to settle the question of the release of the prisoners, and, if possible, to remove the bad impression caused by the Vali's complaints against him to the Porte. He will hardly be able to return here unless Mustapha Pasha is translated to another post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 28.

*Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)*

(No. 165 A. Secret.)
*Berlin, May 16, 1883.*

My Lord,

PRINCE BISMARCK told me to-day that, as I was going home on leave of absence, he would be obliged if I would explain verbally and in strict confidence to your Lordship what follows.

He was glad, he said, to steer a course with England and act in concert with Her Majesty's Government whenever German interests admitted of it, and he had cordially supported our Egyptian policy, and was ever ready to assist in carrying out the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty; but in one question he could not follow Her Majesty's Government, and that was the Armenian question.

In his opinion, no good could come from the constant pressure of foreign Powers at Constantinople, which humiliated the Sultan in the eyes of his subjects, and weakened him in the eyes of his enemies.

The Treaty of Berlin, and all that followed, had taken so much blood from the Sultan that he wanted time and quiet to recover strength enough to look after his own concerns and keep order in his own house.

It was essential for the peace of Europe that the Oriental question should not be revived too soon, and for that reason it was essential not to stir up minor questions which could encourage the renewal of complications and the avidity of the Sultan's enemies.

Russia, he sincerely believed, was willing to be passive for the present, but any encouragement given to national aspirations in Armenia might induce her to return to an active policy, and take up arms for the liberation of the Armenian nationality from the Ottoman yoke; and if Russia invaded Armenia, what Power or Powers would undertake to drive her out of it again?

Convinced as he was of the importance of avoiding any pressure at Constantinople which tended to rouse Russian ambition in the East again, he had telegraphed to the German Ambassador, M. de Radowitz, to maintain a strictly neutral attitude in regard to the Armenian policy of Her Majesty's Government; and he now begged I would explain his reasons for so doing to your Lordship when I returned to England.

I said that, as far as I knew, no undue pressure had been put upon the Sultan in regard to Armenia. His Majesty had certainly been repeatedly advised to send an able and enlightened Governor to Armenia, who could report to the Sultan what measures were needed to save that unhappy country from the state of anarchy it is suffering from, and which is far more likely to make the Armenians call upon Russia for protection than the re-establishment of law and order by the Sultan at the instigation of a friendly Power.

There was nothing in the humane and well-meant advice of Her Majesty's Government that could humiliate the Sultan or weaken his authority; and I felt sure that if his Highness would exert the great influence he possessed at Constantinople in favour of Armenia, our excellent and well-considered advice would be followed, the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin would be fulfilled, and both the Sultan and the people of Armenia would be the gainers by it.

Prince Bismarck said that charity began at home; that he found making the subjects of his Master, the German Emperor, happy took up all his time, without attempting to minister to the happiness of those of the Sultan; that interference with the happiness of other Sovereigns' subjects was philanthropy, and that he hated philanthropy in politics. That was, however, neither here nor there; and all he wished to explain was that he must respectfully decline to accede to Lord Dufferin's request to M. de Radowitz for support in pressing Armenian reforms on the Sultan, however much he regretted not to be able for this once to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government. The treatment that he himself would apply to the Sultan, in the interest of Germany and general peace, would be that of a friend interested in the recovery of a convalescent from whom he has nothing to inherit, but on whose recovery the peace of the family depends. He would soothe and strengthen him, so as to prepare him for self-defence against the new danger looming in the distance in the shape of an alliance between Bulgaria, Servia, Montenegro, and Greece, the object of which appeared to be the organization among the inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula of popular declarations and votes, according to their respective nationalities, in favour of annexation to the States composing the League, on the same plan and system as was adopted and successfully carried out in Italy by Count Cavour.

If this proved to be true, and the Sultan unable to keep order in Eastern Roumelia and the other provinces still under his dominion, Austria and Russia might be again drawn into an Oriental complication, which all Europe would regret.

So deplorable a prospect rendered it desirable, in his opinion, to strengthen the Sultan in the eyes of his subjects and in the face of Europe, to enable him to hold his own against a Greco-Slav League, by moral support and demonstrative friendship on the part of the peace-loving Powers of Europe.

Prince Bismarck, though evidently suffering from physical pain and mental weariness from ill-health and over-work, detained me over an hour in varied conversation, and was most cordial in his assurances of friendship for England and for Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

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No. 29.

*Vice-Consul Razzack to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 7.)
My Lord,

*Jeddah, May 7, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here on the 3rd instant of Sheikh Obeidullah, the Kurdish Chief, who is to be deported to Medinah.

He is in charge of Kamil Bey, an Aide-de-camp of His Majesty the Sultan, and is accompanied by his family and a few followers, altogether amounting to about twenty-five persons.

Since his arrival here he has applied for permission to reside in Mecca, with liberty to go to Taif during summer.

It is said he will be allowed 15,000 piastres and 3½ ardebs of wheat per month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ABDUR RAZZACK.

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No. 30.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)*

(No. 2.)
My Lord,

*Constantinople, May 14, 1883.*

DURING the course of my interview with the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday, the 9th instant, I took an opportunity, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 108 of the 5th April, to touch upon the affairs of Armenia, which, I reminded their Highnesses, were in as unsatisfactory a condition as ever. I informed them that your Lordship had desired me to call the attention of the Sultan to the subject, and I requested them to inform His Majesty of this fact in order that he might not be taken by surprise at the audience to which I was about to be admitted.

Aarifi Pasha contented himself with a general expression of concurrence in the views of Her Majesty's Government. Said Pasha went further, and assured me he had never ceased desiring to see a better system of administration introduced into Asia Minor, which he considered was absolutely necessary for the security of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 31.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)*

E
(No. 302c.)
My Lord,

*Constantinople, May 16, 1883.*

DURING the course of my interview with the Sultan on the 10th instant I passed from the affairs of Egypt to the Armenian question. In as conciliatory and courteous terms as I could command I recalled to His Majesty's attention the various communications which had passed between the Porte and myself and the Representatives of the other Powers in reference to this momentous subject. I reminded him of the assurances he had given to me personally relative to the projected reforms, and founding myself not only upon the LXIst Article of the Berlin Treaty, but also on the terms of the Anglo-Turkish Convention of the 4th June, 1878, I urged upon His Majesty the necessity of no longer delaying the realization of his beneficent intentions.

His Majesty replied by dwelling upon the impossibility of his creating in Asia Minor an *imperium in imperio* by the grant of special privileges to his Armenian subjects. On this I assured him in the most explicit terms, as I had frequently done on previous occasions, that there was no question of erecting the provinces inhabited by the Armenians into a privileged district, or of the introduction of any régime of an exceptional character, or of doing anything calculated to weaken his Imperial authority, or militate against the unity of his Empire. On the contrary, I said, an anxious examination of the subject had led me to the conclusion that we should not be justified

in pressing upon him such a solution of the difficulty; that the real remedy was to be found in extending the benefits of good administration, equal laws, and universal justice to all his Asiatic subjects, irrespective of race or religion. The Armenians, I was convinced, desired no better than to remain incorporated with His Majesty's Empire, if only the Turkish Government would create for them anything approaching to a tolerable *modus vivendi*. By remaining associated with Turkey they knew they would be able to preserve their identity, their nationality, their historical traditions, and the independence of their religion; and for the sake of these objects they would be content even with a lower standard of material well-being than that which they knew was enjoyed by their brethren on the other side of the frontier. But though these ideas were still in the ascendant, it was impossible to expect they would endure amongst a population perpetually subjected to injustice, pillage, extortion, and unnumbered injuries at the hands of those who were bound to protect them. The recent troubles at Van and elsewhere, though not apparently serious in themselves, were a proof that the Armenians were beginning to give way to counsels of despair; and in the East, local troubles, as had been the case in Bulgaria, in Roumelia, in Servia, in Bosnia, and in Egypt, were apt to be followed by an unexpected foreign occupation, which sometimes carried with it the permanent loss of important provinces. It was because England desired to see Turkey peaceful, rich, and contented that I had been instructed to call His Majesty's attention to the serious tendency of these events. We were the more justified in doing so on account of the obligations we had undertaken under the Anglo-Turkish Convention of the 4th June, 1878, which required us to give His Majesty armed assistance in case of his Asiatic territories being attacked; but that His Majesty must remember that the engagements imposed upon us were conditional on the introduction into those provinces of certain necessary reforms which were to be agreed upon between the two Powers. Nothing, however, had yet been done by the Porte to give force to these contingent obligations, and therefore I must frankly warn him that, unless a great change took place in the policy of the Ottoman Government in the desired direction, His Majesty could hardly expect that England would feel itself bound to perform its part of a bilateral engagement while the conditions agreed to by the other Contracting Party were entirely neglected.

Although I had taken care that His Majesty should be informed of the nature of the communication which I had been instructed to make to him, he seemed very much startled at the foregoing observation, and asked with some warmth whether it was for nothing he had surrendered the magnificent Province of Cyprus.

His Majesty then dilated upon the recuperative powers of Turkey. To this idea I cordially subscribed, and added that, with a little good administration, a country possessing such magnificent resources, and so hardy, spirited, and energetic a population, might become one of the most powerful kingdoms of the earth. I was well aware, I said, of His Majesty's patriotism, of his laborious devotion to his duties, and of his sincere desire that his subjects should be properly governed. Whatever was within the immediate reach of His Majesty's own observation was often effectually attended to. Where things went wrong was in those distant regions beyond His Majesty's ken. I would therefore venture to recall to his recollection the proposition which had already met with His Majesty's approval, and which had been submitted to him with the united consent of all the European Ambassadors a year and a half ago, namely, the dispatch of a High Commissioner whose name and antecedents should be a guarantee of his character and administrative ability, with sufficiently large powers to put a stop to the corruption, misrule, and oppression which reigned in the eastern vilayets of Turkey. Such an act would be at once regarded as a proof of His Majesty's kind intentions, and would be an immediate solace to the populations whose interests were concerned, especially if the officer in question were nominated for a term of years, and were given authority to dismiss incompetent officials, and to substitute Armenian and Christian administrators in those centres where the non-Mussulman population were found to be in a majority. A very small modicum of good government would, I was certain, be sufficient to secure the end in view, but if this were denied, I feared that, having no choice between gradual extirpation or expatriation, the Armenians would be sorely tempted to take refuge in Russia, if they did not resort to more violent courses.

His Majesty was good enough to reply that he would see me again before I quitted Constantinople, and that he would then confide to me, for communication to your Lordship, a written paper which should contain his personal views on the various questions in which the Governments of England and of Turkey were interested.



Two days afterwards I waited upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and again submitted to him the foregoing considerations in relation to the Armenian question. Mr. Wyndham accompanied me upon this occasion, and I repeated to Aarifi Pasha, in very distinct and precise terms, the announcement I had already made to the Sultan of the impossibility of England considering herself bound by her engagements under the Anglo-Turkish Convention of the 4th June, 1878, if Turkey upon her side obstinately refused to ignore her corresponding responsibilities. His Highness took a note of what fell from me, and your Lordship need not therefore be under any apprehension that either the Porte or the Sultan have not been duly warned as to our views in relation to this important subject.

On the following Monday, the 14th, I received a note from Munir Bey to tell me that His Majesty had been so overcome by the death of his old servant and Minister, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, that he would not be able to see me as he had intended before I left, but that he himself would wait upon me the next day with a communication from His Majesty.

Accordingly on the following day Munir Bey arrived with a paper in his hand, written in Turkish. This paper he was not authorized to communicate to me. It was merely a Memorandum with which to refresh his memory as to the terms of the Sultan's message, which was to the following effect:—

After desiring to be remembered to Her Majesty the Queen, and conveying his kind regards to the Prince and Princess of Wales, His Majesty enlarged on the necessity of maintaining and confirming the ancient friendship by which Turkey and England had been so long bound to one another. His Majesty then deigned to inform me, in reference to the conversation we had had on the previous Thursday, that he had desired his Ministers to draw up a project for the necessary reforms, but he wished to submit to your Lordship that every Government was the best judge of the nature of the administration suited to its own subjects. Had it been worth while to do so, I might have reminded Munir Bey, in reply to this observation, that both under the Treaty of Berlin and under the Anglo-Turkish Convention the very contrary axiom is implied, at all events in reference to Turkey; for in the one case it is stipulated that the measures referred to should be communicated to the Powers, and in the other that there should be a preliminary agreement upon them between England and the Porte.

The Grand Vizier called upon me soon after Munir Bey had left. I again went over the same ground with his Highness, and there is no doubt that Said Pasha fully apprehends the gravity of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 32.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 16, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 277 of the 6th May, I have the honour to inclose a further despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti on the subject of the ill-treatment inflicted on Protestants at Trebizond by the Greek population of that district.

It would appear from this second despatch of Mr. Biliotti that the incident has been much exaggerated, and that the Porte has acted in the matter with judicious energy.

I informed Mr. Biliotti on the 3rd instant that it did not appear to me to be a case in which Her Majesty's Embassy could properly interfere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 32.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Trebizond, May* 1, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to report that Governor-General Sirri Pasha, who had departed towards the beginning of last month in order to push with activity the con-

struction of the road between Samsoon and Amassia, unexpectedly came back here last week.

His return was caused by the Mutessarif of Trebizond, who was in charge of the Government, having forwarded so alarming reports with regard to the occurrences related in my despatch to you No. 13 of the 23rd ultimo, that the Porte immediately ordered Sirri Pasha back to his post, and at the same time the expedition of two battalions of regulars from Erzinghian. But the Vali, finding, as I myself reported to you, that the incidents relating to Protestants had been grossly exaggerated, stopped the march of the troops, and intends returning himself to Samsoon in the course of the present week.

As on one occasion the few zaptiehs sent to protect the Protestant convert Panayotti were roughly treated by a score of Greeks, the Porte seems to have been apprehensive that the police force at Trebizond should not have been able to cope with the mob. But what took place was not of a character to awake such apprehensions. However, the energy displayed by the Porte has produced a salutary impression, and since the Protestants have been molested in no way.

Though the local authorities are willing to make an example, it has hitherto been impossible to procure evidence against any of the parties who came to hands with the police, or insulted them, and assaulted Panayotti; and, all the witnesses appearing to be Greeks, it is not likely that any will come forward.

The occurrences which have taken place are especially to be regretted for the Kroomlees themselves, as the example of intolerance which they have given may be imitated by Mussulmans, on some of the numerous Kroomlees, who still outwardly continue to follow the tenets of Mahommed, openly declaring themselves to be Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 33.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)*

(No. 311.)
*Constantinople, May 18, 1883.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the apparent desire of the Vali of Aleppo to reopen the Zeitoun question, and to send a military expedition into the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 33.

*Consul Henderson to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 11.)
*Aleppo, May 3, 1883.*
Sir,

I HAVE been informed that the Vali is applying to the Porte for permission to reopen the Zeitoun question and proclaim martial law in that district on the pretence that the Zeitounli are again in rebellion against the Government, and his Excellency himself informed me that he is most anxious to obtain authority for a military expedition, consisting of two battalions of troops, to proceed to Zeitoun under his own command.

From other sources I hear that his Excellency's statements are incorrect, that the Zeitounli are quite quiet, but that it is the Vali himself who is seeking to foment trouble there as a pretext for a military expedition, in order to divert the attention of the Sultan from the numerous complaints that are daily being made against him, and thus defer his own dismissal, which is said to be imminent.

In talking over the Zeitoun matter with his Excellency a few days ago I pointed out to him the undesirability and imprudence of creating embarrassing questions for the Porte at such an inopportune moment, and how unjustifiable and blamable it would be to gratuitously and wantonly attack unoffending Christians, and light anew a conflagration in the mountains which might cause grave complications to the Porte before it could be extinguished. His Excellency's conversation left the impression on



my mind that the interest or advantage of the Porte were very secondary considerations in his estimation to personal questions affecting himself.

I regret that, owing to the want of a Consul at Marash, I am unable to keep Her Majesty's Embassy fully informed of all that is passing at Marash and Zeitoun, but, from what I learn, not one of the reforms proposed by the Reform Commission, and sanctioned by the Sultan on the initiative of Her Majesty's Government in 1879, has ever been carried out. The French Vice-Consul left for Aintab and Marash on Saturday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

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No. 34.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)*

E
(No. 318. Confidential.)
*Constantinople, May 22, 1883.*
My Lord,

I HAVE learnt confidentially that His Majesty the Sultan has sent orders to the Porte to consider reforms for his Asiatic provinces, and that a Committee, formed of some of the Ministers, has been appointed *ad hoc*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 35.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)*

(No. 319. Confidential.)
*Constantinople, May 22, 1883.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been very confidentially informed that Server Pasha, the Ambassador Extraordinary to represent the Sultan at the Czar's Coronation, is the bearer of a letter to His Imperial Majesty drawn up in most flattering terms.

I have also learnt that his Excellency is charged to endeavour to persuade the Czar not to grant any further privileges to his Armenian subjects, and especially not to extend the privileges which they enjoy under their Charter or "Bulagenia."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 36.

*Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)*

E
(No. 156. Confidential.)
*Vienna, May 22, 1883.*
My Lord,

I TOOK an opportunity of expressing to Count Kálnoky the hope that the Austrian Ambassador would support the representations made by Lord Dufferin to the Sultan respecting the reforms in Armenia.

He said that Prince Bismarck was strongly of opinion that it was inexpedient and unadvisable to irritate the Sultan by pressing him with regard to matters of internal administration, and that for himself, while he would be ready to recommend the adoption of Lord Dufferin's advice, he could not do so in such a way as to check the returning appearance of a confidence in the friendly disposition of Austria which the Sultan had begun to exhibit.

His Excellency's language fully confirmed the remarks I have already made to your Lordship upon the determination of the Imperial Government to keep steadily in view the increase of Austrian influence at Constantinople, and to do nothing to endanger it.

This motive will prevent them from giving Her Majesty's Government more than a very mild support in any question, unless one of serious European importance,

which is likely to be resented by the Sultan; but within these limits your Lordship may, I believe, generally count upon receiving it.

Count Kálnoky informed me that, after Lord Dufferin's last audience of the Sultan, His Majesty intimated his wish to see the Austrian Ambassador, and that Baron Calice had gone to the Palace expecting to be spoken to about Armenia and the other matters that might have been discussed at Lord Dufferin's audience.

The Sultan had, however, abstained from all reference to them or to any subject of interest, confining himself to flattering expressions of confidence in the Imperial Government, so that Baron Calice found himself (probably much to his own satisfaction) relieved from the necessity of giving any opinion or advice; but he had afterwards strongly represented to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs that the adoption of the measures asked for by Lord Dufferin was loudly called for in the interest of the Sultan and his Empire, in which opinion the Ministers seemed to acquiesce.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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No. 37.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*

E
(No. 199 A.)

*Foreign Office, June* 1, 1883.

Sir,

I MENTIONED in conversation to the Turkish Ambassador that I had received a despatch from you reporting that the Sultan had directed his Ministers to take into consideration the question of reforms for His Majesty's Asiatic provinces, and I expressed the satisfaction with which I had learned this fact.

I said that in the representations which Lord Dufferin had recently made on the subject Her Majesty's Government had not attempted to claim the immediate and complete execution of the Sultan's engagements to them in this respect. They had only urged that His Majesty should, in his own interest, take such steps as would allay discontent and agitation in his Asiatic provinces, and avert the danger of insurrection or aggression.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 38.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June* 4.)

(No. 322.)

*Constantinople, May* 26, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting of the general condition of the Vilayet of Trebizond, the substance of which I shall communicate to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 38.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 10.)

*Trebizond, May* 10, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE had occasion to report on several occasions on outrages perpetrated by Lazes in the western districts, where they settled in more numerous bodies than in other parts of this vilayet.

The disorders which took place during the first months of their immigration in this province might have been attributed to their unsettled condition on their immediate arrival in a foreign land.

These disorders may have been presented by the populations under exaggerated colours, though they were one of the causes of the emigration of Christians from the districts in which settled Lazes.

However, it would be unfair to tax the whole of them to be miscreants, but it is



impossible, at the same time, not to admit that there is amongst them a sufficient number of brigands to trouble the tranquillity of this vilayet.

The first serious affray, in which two Lazes were killed and three wounded, took place at Perchembé (Ordoo) exactly two years ago. (Reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 4th May, 1881.)

On the 26th of the same month (No. 30), in consequence of other acts of brigandage at Boolaman (Ordoo), Fatza, and Unieh, I pointed out the inefficiency of the police force in those districts, and that, if no remedial measures were adopted by the Porte, disorders would increase and attain very serious proportions.

I reported on the 11th June (No. 33) the apprehension of five of the principals in the outrage at Ordoo, and on the 16th July (No. 37) that of five other Lazes at Kerassond for plunder on the Karahissar road, and of as many at Unieh, who had stolen the property of Greek emigrants.

On the 4th August (No. 42) I mentioned the rescue by the police of three Greeks who had been carried off by Lazes at Tireboli, and the apprehension of the brigands; and also the shooting dead by the natives of Fatza, who had armed themselves for self-defence, of five Lazes who were lurking in the night for unlawful purposes.

The settlement of Lazes in the vicinity of Sinope caused the emigration of 150 Armenian families also from that locality to Russia. (Reference to No. 43 of the 6th August.)

On the 13th of the same month (No. 46) I reported that the Armenians and the Mussulmans of Ordoo had petitioned the Armenian Bishop at Trebizond, and submitted that, owing to the incessant outrages committed by Lazes, their position was no longer endurable.

I beg leave to point out here that the cases reported by me do not represent all those which took place, but only those which came to my knowledge from distant districts, from whence it is difficult to obtain reliable information without visiting them from time to time.

In consequence of severe measures adopted by Sirri Pasha, at that time Vali of Trebizond, the Lazes complained against him, and seem to have commanded sufficient influence at Constantinople to obtain his dismissal. That was, at all events, the apparent motive of his recall, and nothing was said by the Porte to contradict the existing impression.

On that occasion I addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy a despatch, No. 47, dated the 15th August, 1881, in which, amongst other things, I pointed out that the decision taken by the Porte might prevent demonstrations on the part of the Lazes, but would later on bring about great trouble in the vilayet; that they would consider the new Vali as bound to act in conformity with their wishes, under penalty of dismissal; that the new Governor could not display severity against the Lazes, but would leave the natives to the mercy of the immigrants, who would become the real masters of the country; that the number of miscreants would increase; that the Courts of Justice would be as much influenced as the Vali; and that the position of the natives would become intolerable, and the ruin of the vilayet inevitable.

From what follows you will be able to judge whether I had greatly misconjectured on the situation.

The only time I had anything to report on Lazes during that year was three weeks after Sirri Pasha's departure, on the 17th September (despatch No. 51), in which I spoke of a murder perpetrated at Fatza by a band of brigands headed by a certain Hodjoglou Hussein Tchaouch, who was already wanted by the police for other misdeeds, and of whom more hereafter.

The late Yussuf Pasha, who succeeded Sirri Pasha, was an honest man, but he lacked that energy which is required in a Vali, and with the example of his predecessor, who for his pains to maintain the Lazes in order had been disapproved by the Porte, he took no measures to repress their nefarious acts, but hushed them up, contenting himself to tide over the current as well as he could.

So it happened that from the 17th September, 1881, to the 25th June of the following year, that is for upwards of nine months, though there were vague rumours with regard to outrages by Lazes, no sufficient information reached me to substantiate any facts.

Of course the Lazes made no demonstrations against the Governor-General, and the Porte was satisfied, but what was the condition of the populations?

As I reported on the 25th June, 1882 (No. 27), in consequence of the wounding of an Armenian at Unieh, and the murder of another at Fatza, the police had at last to interfere, and succeeded in capturing three and killing as many of the brigands.

The late Yussuf Pasha himself could no longer shut his eyes to the state of things, and dispatched troops to Ordoo, but their presence, which for a time produced a lull in acts of brigandage, was no longer sufficient to prevent the breaking out of fresh disorders, as I mentioned in my despatch No. 46 of the 31st October last.

Encouraged by impunity, the bands of Laz brigands had increased in number and audacity, and for several months past had been especially infesting the Cazas of Ordoo, Fatza, and Unieh to an extent unbearable to the populations.

On his arrival here, in January last, Sirri Pasha, finding that the condition of the natives had attained the extreme limits of human endurability, adopted measures for the repression of brigandage.

In the middle of February Hodjoglou Hussein Tchaouch, of whom I have already spoken, having murdered two and wounded several men at Fatza, the new Vali sent a force against him. But Hodjoglou's band had become so formidable that, on the 26th March last, they substained during eight hours a desperate fight against a mixed body of troops and police who met them near the village of Koorookli in the Canton of Unieh.

Two brigands were shot dead, one of whom was Doursoon, the brother of the chief; two were apprehended alive; Hodjoglou Hussein Tchaouch himself and another were severely wounded, and would very likely have been captured with the rest of the band, had it not been for the arrival on the scene of action of numerous Lazes living in the vicinity, who aided the brigands to make good their escape.

On the side of the police an officer and a corporal were severely and a zaptieh slightly wounded.

Shortly after this encounter eleven brigands surrendered at discretion to the authorities at Fatza, and thirty-four others were apprehended by the police since Sirri Pasha's arrival here, that is, within not quite four months. But, as many others, they also may be allowed to recover their liberty without undergoing regular trials. In the single Caza of Fatza thirty-seven individuals have thus been released by the judicial authorities within the last year; and, if I am rightly informed, the numerous miscreants arrested under the former tenure of office of Sirri Pasha, if tried, were not convicted, as not one of them is to be found in the prisons, though some of them were captured in encounters with the police, in which zaptiehs were wounded, and even killed.

The latter do more than could be expected from their deficient number, inefficient organization, and the fact that, while the brigands are armed with Government Martinis, the police are only provided with inferior rifles, still placing them at greater disadvantage. Within the last three years seven zaptiehs were killed and twenty-six wounded by brigands.

The zaptiehs in this vilayet being by 250 short of the regulation number, I understand that Sirri Pasha has asked for authority to fill up the cadres, and that it was refused to him, as being an expensive measure not called for by necessity.

His intention was to station them in compact bodies of 50 in the eastern districts, 100 at Trebizond and Gumushané, and 100 in the western districts, so as to have an available force strong enough to cope with any band of brigands.

There are small bodies of troops, it is true, at Ordoo and Rizeh, but regular soldiers cannot, in a mountainous country like this, render the same efficient services as a well-organized gendarmerie.

It is not, perhaps, clearly known to the Porte that in the three Cazas of Ordoo, Fatza, and Unieh, which are inhabited by nearly 150,000 natives, and, according to Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, by 27,000 Laz immigrants, there are altogether fifty-seven zaptiehs and eleven soovaris, on whom devolve the complicated duties to apprehend delinquents, guard the prisons, carry summonses and Government orders to great distances, assist in the collection of taxes, tithes, arrears, &c., and fight against brigands.

If in ordinary time, which can even be much doubted, sixty-eight zaptiehs were considered to be sufficient, it is evident that after an augment of 27,000 inhabitants, and when the country is infested by bands of brigands, this force, a small portion of which is only available, is far from adequate to cope with them over a very difficult ground of an extent of upwards of 2,000 square miles.

Armed brigandage is not the only evil from which the natives have to suffer. It would appear that in the three before-mentioned cazas the Lazes are acting as masters, to whose will everything must yield, and that the power they have assumed is such that it suffices for them to tell a land-owner that such or such of his plots of ground is to their convenience to prevent his ever again setting his foot on it.



I was told that one of the Laz Chiefs purchased for 5*l.* a diminutive piece of land near the property of Ali Bey, of Boolaman (Ordoo), and sent to inform him that he wished to purchase his estate. Ali Bey having replied that it would be his ruin, and begged that the proposal should be withdrawn, the Laz Chief, who never had any serious intention to purchase, replied that in that case he should buy his bit of land. But when the Bey offered 10*l.* and 15*l.* for what was paid 5*l.*, he was told that it was worth 100*l.*, which he was compelled to pay down.

As the local Beys have been oppressing the native populations, the retaliation used against them by others may be considered to be a deserved punishment; but if the Beys, who were all-powerful in those cazas, are so dealt with by the Lazes, their treatment can give the measure of that to which the low classes are subject.

The Cantonal authorities themselves, from fear or from other motives, side with the Lazes and their Chiefs.

And now that Sirri Pasha has adopted measures for the repression of brigandage, the latter raise the clamour that he is persecuting them without motive, in consequence of former animosity against them.

However, quite recently Cavzogloo Osman Pasha, the Kaimakam of Ordoo, who had always written in favour of the Lazes, telegraphed to the Government here that the native population, unable any longer to submit to the oppression of the immigrants, had sent delegates from the villages to represent their unbearable condition, and that if immediate measures were not adopted he apprehended great complications.

Sirri Pasha having asked for further details, which had not been supplied to him up to the 4th instant, the date of his return to Samsoon, I am inclined to believe that, for some purpose or other, the imminence of the danger has been exaggerated by Osman Pasha.

However, there can be no doubt that there is impending peril, and though I cannot, without personal inquiry on the spot, vouch for all the details reported, I am firmly convinced that there is perfect truth in the outline given of the situation in the western districts.

With regard to the eastern districts, I have had occasion, more than once, and again quite lately, to speak of acts of brigandage, of revenge on a witness even after a lapse of nearly two years; of the subtraction by a prisoner of the papers connected with his trial, and of the assault in front of the Seraglio at Atina, by this escaped prisoner, of the instructing Judge.

I have had to report, not long ago, cases of oppression in the Mutessariflik of Gumushané, which it was not in the power of the authorities to repress. And within the last six or seven years I have often referred to intrigues against the Valis, the wire-pullers of which reside in the town of Trebizond, of which they are natives.

They are few, but their occult influence is great, and extends all over the vilayet, as they are in league with the two or three intriguers who are to be found in each district. Their number is swelled, according to circumstances, by native officials and their relatives, who may be dissatisfied with the Vali.

When a Governor-General is not of their convenience, they not only avail themselves of every incident that happens to reap advantage for their cause by creating trouble to him, but they even go so far as to foment disorders in the town and in the districts with the sole object to throw discredit on his administration. And with their underground dealing they do as much, if not more, mischief than the brigands themselves.

With all these elements of disorder, which are in full operation here and in the districts, the condition of this vilayet is such, I believe, as to deserve the serious attention of the Porte.

As I understand the situation, the position of a Vali who wishes to do what is needful is impaired by accusations against him by parties who find profit in a disorganized administration, and by the undeserving consideration given to them by the Porte. But when Lazes and others who oppress the people are allowed by the Vali to have their own way, no accusations being brought against him by influential parties at Constantinople, due attention is not paid to the humble complaints of the real sufferers.

And so it is that things have grown from bad to worse, and have attained a degree in which it might be dangerous to allow them to remain.

The present I consider to be a moment in which the turn given to affairs may decide of the restoration of tranquillity, or of the continuance for long of disorders in this vilayet. All depends on the determination of the Porte to support the Vali, whoever he may be, or to give undue weight to complaints against him.

If Sirri Pasha does not possess the full confidence of the Porte, and all the required qualifications of a Governor-General, there must surely be amongst Turkish functionaries some one who enjoys them, and who could fulfil his duties towards his Government, as well as towards the deserving class of the population, to the exclusion of the disorganizing elements.

Should the Porte be not fully aware of the situation, it is quite time, in my humble opinion, that it should not continue any longer to ignore the real state of affairs.

This end can only be attained by its forwarding an upright functionary, of a high, independent position, and not aiming at being appointed Governor-General at Trebizond, to inquire and report on the subject.

Unless I am much mistaken, the Porte will then find that, if this province is not to be allowed to entirely become the prey of brigands and intriguers, the police shall have to be reinforced, the Courts of Justice put on a footing securing the conviction and punishment of offenders, and the Vali invested with discretionary powers enabling him to deal with brigands, and with individuals working in the dark, who are now spreading desolation and misery in this vilayet, which, it should not be forgotten, is bordering on Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 39.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4.)*

(No. 323. Confidential.)
*Constantinople, May 26, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting the proceedings of Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, a Laz Chief of Ordoo, and to which I think it right to call the attention of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(Confidential.)
*Trebizond, May 10, 1883.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of this day, I have the honour to communicate to you further information of a confidential character.

In October last I received from Ordoo a long anonymous letter, dated the 1st/13th September, an extract of which I inclose, containing great complaints, with regard to incessant outrages perpetrated by Lazes, against Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, who was accused of being an accomplice of the brigands, and Cavzoglou Osman Pasha, who is still the Kaïmakam of that caza, and was charged with gross misconduct, and with siding with Ali Pasha and the Lazes.

Having asked information from a party whom I knew in Ordoo, the answer which I received confirmed the contents of the anonymous letter, and especially dwelt on the fact that brigandage and murder would continue so long as Ali Pasha remained in the country. I likewise inclose an extract of this communication.

However, the charges against the latter appeared to me so serious that I abstained from communicating them to Her Majesty's Embassy before being further enlightened on the subject.

But as after an interval of seven months Sirri Pasha has also received identical information, I consider myself in duty bound to submit the rumours to you, as being worth at all events to be verified by the Porte.

Sirri Pasha acknowledges that Cavzoglou Osman Pasha allows Lazes to have their own way, but that he yields to fear, and that he is not in league with them. But whether he is actuated by pusillanimity, or other motives, the fact is that he does not afford to the native populations that protection to which they are entitled.



However, as reported in to-day's despatch No. 19, he has quite recently strongly telegraphed against their acts, and the serious consequences which might follow, though he has failed to supply the details asked from him.

Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha is said to be the Laz Chief of whom I have spoken in my forementioned despatch as having extorted 100*l.* from Ali Bey of Boolaman.

If I were to express an opinion with regard to Ali Pasha, I would hesitate to believe him capable to take a share from brigands, but not the least to admit another current rumour, that he foments trouble in this province with the object of being appointed Vali of Trebizond, and his brother, Osman Pasha, Mutessarif at Ordoo.

He may, therefore, on the one hand, encourage the Lazes to trouble the public tranquillity, and, on the other hand, thwart, as much as possible, the action of the Governor-General for the repression of the disorders, so as to induce the Porte to come to the conclusion that, owing to their influence on the Lazes, he and his brother are the only ones who can manage to govern them.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt for me that the mere presence at Ordoo of Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, who cannot do otherwise than try to palliate the misdeeds of his countrymen, gives them an amount of confidence which entertains disorders, and that his removal from this vilayet would much tend to extinct plunder and murder in the localities where Lazes have settlements. Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, and Lazes in general, are supported at Constantinople by Ali Fehmi Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, who, being himself a Laz, honestly believes that the complaints against his countrymen are exaggerations suggested by animosity.

Sirri Pasha has shown me an anonymous letter, posted at Constantinople, and which he received at Castamouni on his being reappointed to this post. He is warned not to return to Trebizond, as his life will be in danger, and he considers that this letter can only emanate from a Laz source.

He has also confidentially informed me that accusations having already been sent against him by the Lazes, he had received a private letter from a friend at the Palace recommending him to follow the example of the late Yussuf Pasha, under whose administration no complaints were made by them.

This communication might be construed as a warning that, provided that nothing is heard at Constantinople from Lazes, the Porte does not care how affairs are conducted in this vilayet.

I must say that I detect a certain hesitation in Sirri Pasha, who always acted with energy and decision. The change in him is no doubt due both to the threatening letter, which has induced him to surround himself with Circassian zaptiehs, and to the friendly warning which has been forwarded to him from the Palace. And it must be confessed that especially the latter communication places a Governor-General in an alternative which renders dangerous any move he may make in either direction.

Should the Porte continue to pay no attention to the condition of this vilayet, the probabilities are that it will either end by becoming a sort of independent Laz province, as most of the native Mussulmans in the eastern districts also belong to that race, or, which is more likely, that the prevailing anarchy will furnish Russia with a very plausible pretext for stepping in in order to afford due protection to Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

*Extract from anonymous Letter addressed to Consul Biliotti.*

(Translation.)
To the British Consul, Trebizond.
*Ordoo, September 1/13, 1882.*

LET us leave aside Cavzoglou Osman Pasha's misconduct.

Ali Pasha, an emigrant General of Brigade, commissioned to collocate the Lazes, and who is the greatest thief and murderer of Laziston, came here for the presumed purpose to introduce order amongst the immigrants; however, if the Lazes steal 10 piastres, 5 piastres go to Ali Pasha. What is then to be expected from a man of such a character?

In order to rob, murders, incursions in villages, house-breaking, carrying off women, and other incredible outrages, are of hourly occurrence.

* * * * *

You are a foreign Consul, but it also pertains to you to protect the native populations.

In the first place, you should cause the dismissal of that *barbare* Kaïmakam, Osman Pasha, and the appointment of an enlightened man; and, in second place, some means should be devised in consequence of which the immigrant Ali Pasha should disappear from the surface of the earth, for it is from him that the Lazes derive their strength.

(Signed) TRUTH.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

*M. Toromanian to Consul Biliotti.*

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

*Ordoo, October* $\frac{13}{26}$, 1882.

THE inhabitants of Ordoo, in general, do not like Osman Pasha, the Kaïmakam of this place.

He is very intimate with Ali Pasha, and it is said that, even if the late occurrence (reference to my No. 46 of the 31st October, 1882) has taken place against the will of Osman Pasha, he shall not fail, in case of need, to protect Ali Pasha owing to his friendship for him.

It is certain that plunders and murders will not cease so long as Ali Pasha is not removed from this locality.

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No. 40.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4.)*

(No. 326.)
My Lord,

*Therapia, May* 28, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 15th January, copy of a further Report from Mr. Consul Biliotti in regard to the attack by brigands on some Christians of the village of Santa, in the Vilayet of Trebizond. The Porte, when I represented the case to them on the receipt of Mr. Biliotti's first despatch on the subject, had alluded to the unwillingness of the Christians to produce the necessary evidence.

The explanations of this alleged reticence are given in the despatch I now transmit, and of which I have communicated an extract to the Sublime Porte. The latter has promised to write again to the Vali of Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 40.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 15.)
Sir,

*Trebizond, April* 30, 1883.

WITH reference to your despatch to me of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform you that the reluctance shown by the two wounded Santalis to identify the brigands by whom they were attacked is common to the Christians, as well as to Mussulmans in those parts, owing to the little confidence which they have that the Courts of Justice will convict and punish culprits. And, in fact, if criminals are sometimes condemned, it is not often that they undergo punishment; in some way or other they manage to recover their liberty, and those who gave evidence against them are in continual dread of being murdered by them.

The danger incurred by witnesses is not an imaginary one, for, though I cannot say that denunciation is always followed by murder, the cases which occur now and then are sufficient to entertain grounded apprehension.

Not later than in the middle of March last a certain Abdul Hamid Effendi, a Mussulman of note at Rizeh, who had given evidence in the trial of Rushdi Pasha (reference to No. 34 of the 16th June, 1881), and was threatened with revenge, was shot dead in broad daylight in the bazaars in that town by one of the partizans of the latter.



So long, therefore, as this state of things continues there is no hope of seeing an inclination on the part of sufferers to identify their aggressors.

There is a circumstance which renders abortive even the action of justice for the extirpation of brigandage here.

In the case of the Santalis, as well as in many other cases, the perpetrators of plunders and murders are only tools in the hands of individuals of a certain influence who, not openly compromising themselves, are always sure to evade punishment, whatever turn affairs may take.

If it happens that one of those who are implicated in the outrage, as is the case with Yomourali Carabetoglou Moustafa, is arrested, his imprisonment, and even his condemnation, do not break the power of the organization.

It is of public notoriety here that the instigators of outrages, or, at all events, the protectors of those who perpetrate them at Yomourah, are two natives of the village of Arsen, in that canton, who reside in the town of Trebizond itself.

One is Kutchuk Ibrahimoglou Ahmed Aga, the other is Tsarekdjioglou Temel Aga. They each are in league with two or three brigands in their native place, who, when in want of followers for a *coup de main*, recruit them in the village of Kokoda, in the Canton of Surmeneh.

These hirelings, reckoning on the patronage of their casual associates to extricate them from difficulties, now and then work on their private account, and thus brigandage is entertained in the eastern districts of this vilayet in spite of the efforts made by the authorities to put it down.

I share the public opinion that the mere measure of removing for a time Ahmed Aga and Temel Aga from this vilayet will restore order at Yomourah, and that the example will not be lost for others similarly situated as themselves. But their removal from Trebizond should take place in consequence of an administrative order, and not by judicial action, as, for more than one motive, nothing will be proved against them in the Courts of Justice.

It is easy for the Porte to ascertain the correctness of my statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 41.

*Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 4.)*

(No. 161. Confidential.)
My Lord,

*Vienna, May* 31, 1883.

THE newspapers having more than once affirmed that the Sultan was endeavouring to be included in the alliance or understanding come to by Austria, Germany, and Italy, I inquired of Count Kálnoky if there was any ground for the report.

He replied that there was none whatever, and that his policy towards Turkey was a very simple one. He wished the country to settle down quietly after its late disasters, and he was not disposed to interfere actively in its concerns, but to encourage it to cultivate its relations with all neighbouring States.

Upon my remarking that upon one question of internal administration, that of the Armenian Reforms, the Porte had taken Treaty engagements which the Powers were entitled to call upon it to fulfil. His Excellency answered that they were of course entitled, but were certainly under no obligation to do so, and being convinced that no good would come of irritating the Sultan by pressing the matter upon him, he had confined himself to instructing Baron Calice to represent to the Grand Vizier, strongly but in a friendly way that the Porte would be most unwise in disregarding the representations of Lord Dufferin, which were dictated by a regard for the true interests of Turkey herself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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No. 42.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

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My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 4, 1883.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 302 c of the 14th ultimo, informing me of the result of your interview with the Sultan on the 10th instant with reference to the Armenian question, and of the warning which you had conveyed to His Majesty, in accordance with the instructions contained in my despatch No. 108 of the 5th April, to the effect that His Majesty could hardly expect that this country would feel itself bound to perform its part of the bilateral engagement contracted under the Anglo-Turkish Convention of the 4th June, 1878, while the conditions agreed to by the other Contracting Party were entirely neglected.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the language held by your Excellency to the Sultan on the occasion in question, as well as your having repeated to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs the warning which your Excellency had conveyed to His Majesty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 43.

*Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received June 6.)*

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Smyrna, May 25, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Ali Pasha, who, in May 1881, succeeded Midhat Pasha as Governor-General of the Vilayet of Aidin, was suddenly dismissed from his post by telegram on the 23rd instant, his successor *ad interim*, Kiamil Pasha, arriving the next morning in a Turkish man-of-war, which returned the same day to Constantinople with the deposed Vali on board.

The reason assigned for this sudden dismissal of Ali Pasha is "general mal-administration," but it is understood that it has special reference to his failure to suppress brigandage, which, it is true, during the spring of this year has assumed unusual dimensions throughout the province. When, however, I have had occasion to complain to his Excellency on behalf of British subjects that they could not visit their farms or mines in the country, except at imminent risk to their liberty or lives, the Vali has never failed to take prompt measures to remedy the evil by dispatching troops or policemen to pursue or disperse the brigands, and has thus restored security to the threatened district. But owing to the mountainous nature of the country, and the terror inspired by the brigands, who force the peasantry to act as their spies, and, it may be in some instances, owing to an understanding between the pursuers and pursued, these predatory bands have generally managed to escape capture and destruction, and have merely shifted their quarters to some more convenient locality. Thus a band, which in February and March last terrorized Thyra and other towns in the valley of the Cayster, removed, when closely pressed, to the Mœander Valley, and during the present week has reappeared in greater force still further south, in the Gulf of Mendelia, where it has committed an act of brigandage on a scale of unprecedented magnitude.

On Sunday, the 20th instant, the "Bellona," a British steam-boat engaged in the coasting-trade of Asia Minor, landed twenty-five passengers at the little port of Kuluk, the *scala* of Mylasa. Hardly had they landed when they were seized by a band of thirty-three Zebecs, who, selecting eleven of them for ransom, released the rest, and carried their victims into the mountains. Ali Pasha, on hearing of this outrage, took most energetic measures to pursue and capture the malefactors, telegraphing to the Governors of all the towns in the district to use all possible means to crush and exterminate the band, shipping at the same time 200 foot soldiers to Kuluk by another English steamer, and dispatching ninety cavalry soldiers by railway to the station nearest to that place. It is now reported that a force of zaptiehs has already come up with the bandits, but as the latter threatened, if attacked, to murder all their victims, the gendarmes desisted and allowed them to withdraw. It is reported also that the chief of the band, Kutchouk Chiritoglu, makes three conditions for the release of his captives: that he shall not be attacked by soldiers; that the ransom he demands shall



be paid; and that he, with his thirty-two Zebecs, shall afterwards be allowed to retire without molestation.

In this instance Ali Pasha has certainly not been wanting in energy, but the outrage which I have recounted appears to have served as the last straw to break his back. It is the Ottoman Government itself, however, which is principally responsible for the existence and maintenance of brigandage throughout the country. It is the system rather than the man which is in fault. The soldiers and zaptiehs are so poorly and irregularly paid that they are not eager to expose their lives in a brush with the brigands, who are generally as well or better armed than themselves, and it is notorious that the officers in command of the forces sent on such expeditions are often not unwilling to come to terms with the brigands, from whom they have more to hope than from the Government. That a friendly understanding frequently exists between the parties is the general belief. To cite an instance in point: an English merchant of Smyrna, who possesses some land some few miles from this city, complained to me one day that his farm had been attacked during the night by robbers, who bound his servants with ropes while they made free with his property. One of his men contrived to escape to a town in the neighbourhood and informed the Mudir, or local Governor, of the facts. The Mudir dispatched some zaptiehs to the rescue, but as these gentry chose to signify their approach by firing their muskets, the robbers took the hint, and withdrew with their booty. When the zaptiehs arrived and found the robbers gone they declared that they had been deceived by a false alarm, maintaining that the farm had not been attacked at all, and induced the Mudir to imprison the farmer until he had paid a number of dollars for the unnecessary disturbance he had caused them, and for their loss of shoe-leather. At my instance, as Consul, the farmer was immediately liberated and the demand withdrawn, but without such intervention the zaptiehs would have profited as well as the robbers.

Another means by which the Government indirectly encourages brigandage is by accepting the submission of notorious brigands, who, when weary of their vocation, or desirous of enjoying the winter in the bosom of their families, not unfrequently surrender to the local authorities. In consequence of such mistaken leniency, the brigands, knowing they can always, by laying down their arms, make peace with the Government, are encouraged to persevere in their nefarious practices.

When Sir Henry Layard visited Ephesus in October 1879, he witnessed the surrender of a brigand chief, who had long been the terror of the district, but who, having made peace with the Government, strutted freely about the railway station, armed to the teeth; and continued to be regarded as a good man and true until, in the following spring, he found it convenient to take again to the mountains. During the present week I have crossed a range of mountains some 5,000 feet high, under the guidance and protection of a dozen Zebecs, all ex-brigands, armed with Peabody rifles, and with revolvers, and have passed a night in their mountain lair. They felt so confident of their position that they showed no alarm on suddenly encountering on the summit of the pass a body of eighteen zaptiehs dispatched from Thyra in quest of the band of Kutchouk Chiritoglu.

Midhat Pasha always refused to make any terms with the brigands, and therefore the vilayet was more free from these pests during the short term of his Government than it had been previously or has been since.

The remedy for brigandage which has proved effectual in some European countries, of making the commune or district responsible for the repayment of all sums extorted as ransom within its limits, can hardly be safely or successfully adopted in a land like Turkey, where justice is so badly administered, and where the officials are generally venal. The burden would assuredly be thrown upon the classes least able to bear it.

A more effectual remedy, and one that would be best understood by these assassins by profession, as the just punishment of their crimes, would be trial by court-martial, and the prompt execution of all taken in arms against the Government. But unless the judges in such cases were adequately paid, they would be open to the bribes offered by the captured brigands to save their lives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. DENNIS.

P.S. *May 27.*—A telegram received yesterday states that thanks to the active and judicious steps taken by the Governor-General and General Hilmi Pasha, the forces dispatched to Kuluk have succeeded in rescuing all the captives, safe and sound, from the hands of the brigands. This success is all the greater, inasmuch as the authorities

have obtained it while rejecting the conditions laid down by the brigands, who are said to have been dispersed in all directions, and are being now pursued by the troops.

G. D.

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No. 44.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 339.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 31, 1883.*

ON the receipt of Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti's despatch No. 18 of the 7th instant, of which I have the honour to transmit a copy, I communicated to the Porte that portion of the despatch which relates to the disturbance that has taken place at Atina in consequence of the attempt on the part of the Imperial authorities to arrest a Notable of that place who is suspected of being concerned in a sacrilegious robbery, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the subject should be brought to the notice of the Ministry of the Interior.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 44.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 18.)

Sir, *Trebizond, May 7, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 71 of the 15th December, 1881, and No. 49 of the 3rd November last, relating to raids in Hodoortchoor by brigands from Rizeh, I have the honour to report that the chalice of the church of that village, of which I spoke in my first-mentioned despatch, having been found in the possession of a certain Sifoglou Ismaïl Aga, one of the Notables, and member of the Administrative Council at Atina, an inquiry was made, in consequence of which he was sent under arrest to Rizeh for trial.

Somehow or other he not only managed to escape from that town, but also to subtract from the Court of Justice the papers connected with the inquiry which established his culpability.

Shortly after his return to Atina, in February last, a telegram bearing thirty signatures of Mussulmans in that place was received by the Vali, in which he was begged, in strong terms, to adopt measures for the restoration of the public tranquillity which had again been disturbed since Sifoglou's arrival.

The necessary orders were given by the Government, but not only Sifoglou could not be apprehended by the police, but, about a fortnight ago, he stationed himself with two followers, all armed to the teeth and with clubs in their hands, in front of the Seraglio, and on the Cadi, who had made the inquiry against him, proceeding to his office, they assaulted him in broad daylight.

He was rescued, bruised and wounded, by the zaptiehs at the Seraglio, who heard his cries for help, but again Ismaïl Aga was not apprehended, and is, since that time, quietly parading in the streets of Atina.

The Cadi has therefore telegraphed that, considering his life to be in danger, he was compelled to keep to his house, and to remit the service to the Kaïmakam.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 45.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 353.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June 4, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Major Trotter respecting the new defence works for the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 45.

*Major Trotter to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 15. Military.)

Sir, *Constantinople, May 31, 1883.*

A MILITARY Commission under the presidency of Feizi Pasha (General Kohlmann, an aged but distinguished officer, who distinguished himself at Kars during the Crimean War and again during the campaign of 1877-78), who has been employed for several months past in visiting and inspecting the Turco-Russian frontier in Asia, with a view to drawing up a scheme for the defence of the new frontier.

I understand that their work in the field is now finished, and that the Commission is busy in preparing its plans and Reports.

One of the most important questions under consideration is the selection of a new head-quarters for the Fourth Corps d'Armée in lieu of Erzinjan, which is generally considered as being too near the frontier, and in too exposed a situation in case of hostilities with Russia.

I am informed that the decisions arrived at by the Commission are in favour of retaining Erzinjan for the present as head-quarters; but in the event of a railway being constructed, as is hoped may be the case, connecting Kharput with the coast, it is proposed to make that town the head-quarters of the army. The selection is, in my opinion, a good one, as also the resolve not to make the change until good railway or other communication be established with the coast.

It appears from a recent Report from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres, that the Turks have just commenced the construction of defensive works in Gïurgeh Boghaz, at six hours distance north-east of Erzeroum, on the road, viâ Olti, to Kars and Ardahan. This is doubtless with a view to prevent the capture of Erzeroum by surprise.

The other and principal approach to Erzeroum from Kars through Deveh Boyoun, is much more strongly defended by nature than the north-east road through the Gïurgeh Boghaz.

I would venture to call your attention to the letters recently published in the "Daily News," written from Erzeroum, Kars, and Tiflis, entirely confirming the views expressed in my despatches No. 9 of the 9th April, and No. 10 of the 24th April, viz., that the Russians were not and had not been making any extraordinary military preparations for the invasion of Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

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No. 46.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 355. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 4, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a paper which has been communicated to me confidentially by the Secretary to the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople, respecting the position to which the Armenian Catholicos or Primate of Etchmiadzin is being reduced under Russian rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 46.

*Memorandum communicated to Mr. Wyndham by M. Tchéra.*

LE siège d'Etchmiazin a une signification historique en ce sens qu'il a été la résidence du Premier Catholicos, St. Grégoire l'Illuminateur; et si ultérieurement des événements politiques ont nécessité à certaines époques de l'histoire sa translation ailleurs, particulièrement à Sis, en Cilicie, Etchmiazin n'en a pas moins été considéré comme la résidence traditionnelle du Catholicos, ce qui fait, que les événements aidant, celui-ci est toujours revenu à Etchmiazin. Il n'en est pas moins vrai qui certaines localités qui avaient servi temporairement de résidence au Catholicos ont pu à leur

tour être considérées comme des sièges, sans pouvoir enlever à Etchmiazin son caractère d'ancienneté et de priorité.

Si on se pénètre bien de l'esprit de l'Église Arménienne, qui ne reconnaît pour Chef que Jésus-Christ, qui n'admet point de Vicaire, on doit comprendre que le Catholicos n'est pas considéré comme le Chef de l'Église; ainsi que cela s'observe dans les Églises qui admettent la hiérarchie—par exemple dans l'Église Romaine.

Dans l'Église Arménienne le Catholicos n'est considéré que comme le père spirituel de toute la communauté, ou mieux comme le surveillant général, exactement comme dans le diocèse l'Évêque diocésain est considéré comme le père spirituel et le surveillant du diocèse.

On comprend par là qu'en multipliant le titre de Catholicos et les sièges, qu'en créant de titres analogues, tels que Patriarches, Primats, Métropolitains, &c., on n'a jamais produit de schisme, comme on n'a point enlevé au siège d'Etchmiazin cette attribution de surveillance générale que la tradition a consacrée.

*Ab antiquo* la communauté tout entière, toute la nation a participé à l'élection de son surveillant général, élection qui, conformément à l'esprit primitif de l'Église Chrétienne, a été toujours populaire. Il en est de même, du reste, de l'élection de n'importe quel ecclésiastique revêtu de fonctions, à cela près que la fonction en pareil cas n'ayant pas un caractère général, les électeurs n'étaient pris que dans la circonscription qui concernait la fonction.

Une fois que Etchmiazin a passé sous la domination Russe, le Gouvernement a voulu appliquer à une institution religieuse non Orthodoxe ce qu'il avait fait pour l'Orthodoxie; c'est-à-dire, la réglementer en faisant reconnaître le Chef de l'État comme l'unique aboutissant au temporel et au spirituel; de là certaines dispositions qui sont tout à fait contraires aux traditions de l'Église Arménienne.

Ainsi: 1. L'élection se transforme en une véritable candidature. On est tenu de présenter au choix de l'Empereur deux candidats. On ne voit pas de raison pourquoi plus tard on n'exigerait pas la présentation de trois ou quatre candidats. En définitive l'Empereur se réserve le choix du Catholicos de qui relèvent tous les Arméniens placés sous différentes dominations.

2. On enlève au Catholicos toute son indépendance en transformant l'élu de la nation et partant l'inspecteur responsable de tous les faits et gestes du siège, en un simple Président d'un Conseil qui relève du Ministère des Cultes. Celui-ci délègue un de ses agents qui assiste aux séances avec voix délibérative pour signaler à qui de droit toute infraction au Règlement imposé.

3. Ce n'est ni le Catholicos ni le siège qui désigne les diocésains—c'est le Ministère des Cultes; le siège n'est pas même consulté avant l'investiture. Les diocésains échappent donc à toute action, à tout contrôle du siège; ils relèvent du Ministère des Cultes, comme le Catholicos et son Conseil.

4. On subordonne aux traditions de l'Orthodoxie Russe des détails de gestion, de possession, concernant les établissements de piété et de charité, de façon à rendre ces détails difficiles, en raison de l'esprit démocratique de l'Église Arménienne, pouvant créer des entraves à un fonctionnement conforme aux traditions de l'Église Arménienne.

L'administration d'une chapelle ou d'une école n'est pas exclusivement réservée au clergé; l'élément laïque intervient partout, ou le supprime complètement.

Comme la nation relève du siège, il faut qu'il exerce ses attributions conformément aux traditions de l'Église Arménienne vis-à-vis de toute la nation; ce que la Russie a le droit de faire, c'est simplement d'écarter du fonctionnement ce qui est contraire aux lois de l'Empire et nullement de substituer sa tutelle à l'action propre du siège.

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No. 47.

*Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)*

(No. 168.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 7, 1883.*

THE "Neue Freie Presse," an Opposition and Liberal newspaper of great circulation, yesterday published an article on the Armenian question of which I have the honour to inclose a summary,* attributing to Her Majesty's Government the wish to take advantage of the Sultan's delay in carrying out the reforms to disengage themselves from the obligations contained in the Cyprus Convention, and stating at the same

* Not printed.



time the belief that the Porte, by its sins of omission, would do all that is possible to liberate England from her engagements.

The "Fremden Blatt," which though not strictly an organ of Government has close relation with it, this morning disputes this view of its contemporary, and argues that Her Majesty's Government has asked nothing that they were not entitled to ask, or that the Sultan, in his own interest, need hesitate to agree to.

The article, of which I inclose an extract, after remarking how important it is for England that Armenia should not fall into the hands of Russia, points out that Her Majesty's Government could not be indifferent to the condition of a province where maladministration and corruption may lead to more serious consequences than in any other part of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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No. 48.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.*

(No. 144. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 13, 1883.*

I HAVE had before me your despatch No. 164, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, reporting a conversation between yourself and Count Kálnoky, who explained the policy of Austria-Hungary towards Turkey, especially in the matter of reforms for Armenia.

I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of thanking Count Kálnoky, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, for having instructed Baron Calice to recommend the Porte not to disregard the representations of Lord Dufferin on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 49.

*Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.*

(No. 244. Secret.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 14, 1883.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 165 A, Secret, of the 16th ultimo, reporting the observations made to you by Prince Bismarck with regard to the Armenian question, and the reasons for which his Highness states that he is unable to join with Her Majesty's Government in putting pressure upon the Sultan for the introduction of reforms in that part of His Majesty's Asiatic dominions.

I have to instruct you to express to Prince Bismarck the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for this friendly communication of his Highness' views, though they regret his decision not to support the representations which they have recently made at Constantinople on the subject.

The proximity of the Russian frontier to the provinces inhabited by an Armenian population, coupled with the existence of maladministration and discontent in those provinces, constitutes a permanent menace to the integrity and security of the Ottoman Empire. There is always danger that the condition of affairs may offer an inducement and excuse for foreign aggression, or that it may give rise to internal disorders and insurrection, with the hope of foreign support. Lord Dufferin did not on the recent occasion propose, and was not instructed to ask, that any exceptional privileges, or any form of autonomy, should be granted to the Armenian subjects of the Porte. His Excellency's representations were confined to urging the expediency, in the Sultan's own interest, of adopting such measures as would insure better administration, an inquiry into existing grievances, and the removal of such as proved well founded.

The Sultan is bound towards all the Powers by Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin to introduce the necessary reforms and improvements in his Armenian provinces, and to communicate to the Powers the steps taken for the purpose. In the Convention of the 4th June, 1878, between Her Majesty and the Sultan, the engagement of England to join in the defence of the Asiatic territories of Turkey is made

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conditional on the introduction into those territories of reforms to be agreed upon between the two Powers; and it is not to be expected that this country should hold herself bound to perform her part of the compact while the Porte neglects the other part.

I should wish you to take an opportunity of mentioning the substance of the above remarks to Prince Bismarck, stating also that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government that the tenour of Lord Dufferin's representations to the Sultan should be kept confidential, and that I have seen with regret that they have been communicated to a French correspondent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 50.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 223.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 15, 1883.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 339 of the 31st ultimo, informing me that you had communicated to the Porte that portion of Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti's despatch No. 18 of the 7th ultimo which relates to the disturbance that has taken place at Atina, in consequence of the attempt of the Turkish authorities to arrest a Notable of that place suspected of being concerned in a sacrilegious robbery.

I have to state that your action in this matter is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 51.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 235.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1883.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 311 of the 18th ultimo, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, respecting the apparent desire of the Vali of Aleppo to reopen the Zeitoun question, and to send a military expedition into the mountains.

I have to request that you will take an opportunity of speaking to Said Pasha on the subject, and deprecate the reopening of this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 52.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 373.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 15, 1883.

I CALLED upon Aarifi Pasha yesterday, and mentioned to his Highness the substance of your Lordship's remarks to Musurus Pasha on the question of reforms in the Sultan's Asiatic provinces, of which your Lordship has done me the honour to inform me in your despatch No. 199 A of the 1st instant, adding that I presumed His Imperial Majesty's Ambassador in London had given his Highness an account of his interview with your Lordship. Aarifi Pasha thanked me, and said that he had not yet received a Report on the subject from Musurus Pasha.

I then asked his Highness if he could tell me the nature of the Report which I said I understood had been sent to His Majesty by the Committee of Ministers who had been sitting to consider the question of reforms. Aarifi Pasha replied that he was unable to do so, as, not having been on the Committee, which had been composed of the Grand Vizier, the President of the Council of State, the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of Justice, he did not know what had taken place; but he said satisfactory Reports were being received from the provinces inhabited by Armenians, where he said Mussulmans and Christians were living happily side by side, and that he should be happy to furnish me with copies of those Reports.



I thanked his Highness, and said I should be most glad to receive them if he would send them to me, and that I would forward them to Her Majesty's Government. I then turned to Colonel Everett, who accompanied me to the Porte, and who is about to start for his post at Erzeroum, and he observed to his Highness that, from his knowledge of the country, reforms were absolutely necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 53.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 374.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 15, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches which reached me on the 10th instant from Mr. Henderson, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting the ill-treatment to which the Armenians at Kneya have been lately and suddenly subjected by the local authorities, and the unseemly language which Djemil Pasha had used with regard to the Armenians in general.

I called yesterday upon Aarifi Pasha, and I mentioned to his Highness the nature of the reports I had received from Mr. Henderson, observing that I felt sure such conduct on the part of the local authorities, and such language as Djemil Pasha had used, could not be in accordance with the views of His Majesty the Sultan, or of the Sublime Porte, and I at the same time pointed out to him the opinion, as expressed by Mr. Henderson, that the Vali would disregard the instructions of the Porte. I also placed in his Highness' hands a short statement in writing, copy of which is herewith inclosed, giving the substance of the principal points in Mr. Henderson's reports. His Highness replied that assuredly neither His Majesty the Sultan nor the Porte could approve such proceedings, and promised me to bring the matter at once to the notice of the Minister of the Interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—In the event of Mr. Henderson's despatches being published, I venture to request that those passages be omitted which might compromise Murad Effendi and Muffetish Adlia, who appear to be well-meaning officials.

H. W.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

*Consul Henderson to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Aleppo, May* 21, 1883.

IN previous correspondence I have had the honour to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Embassy the ill-treatment of the Armenians of the Gisser-Slaghl Kaimakamlik by the Turkish authorities. During the last year or two the Vali has left those poor people alone, but recently this ill-treatment has been recommenced with an asperity undiminished by two years of inactivity. The Catholicos of Cilicea, unsuccessful in obtaining from the Governor-General any mitigation of the unbending and systematic severity with which the Vali has lately been pursuing the unfortunate Armenians of the village of Kneya, appealed to me in very touching terms on behalf of his suffering co-religionists. His Holiness explained to me that Djemil Pasha did not attempt to conceal from him the hostility with which he viewed any attempt to obtain the slightest amelioration of the pitiable condition of these poor people.

His Holiness more especially adverted to the support and encouragement given by the Governor-General to seven or eight proselytes who by force of arms took possession of the precincts of the church at Kneya, belonging to the Armenian community, firing at and driving off the Armenian custodians, emptying the vessels containing the sacerdotal oil on the floor, and otherwise behaving in a violent and very unseemly manner.

Arrested and condemned by the local authorities, these offenders were brought to Aleppo by the Governor-General, and there liberated by his Excellency.

The Kaimakam of Gisser himself informed me confidentially that he had received

secret orders from Djemil Pasha to oppress the Armenians in general, and in particular to find some pretext to seize and arrest Sheikh Hana, their Chief, and exile him from his village of Kneya.

Murad Effendi, the Kaimakam, is a conscientious and estimable man, and rather than carry out instructions so contrary to his natural good-feeling and sense of justice, he resigned his appointment, and accepted an inferior post at Aleppo.

Being unaware how far Her Majesty's Government would approve any action of mine in favour of these poor people, I confined myself in conversation with the Vali to general observations on the desirability of dealing out justice even-handed to all, and the discontent which a policy of systematically oppressing any particular sect must incite. His Excellency told me that he considered the Armenians to be the Bulgarians of Asia Minor, and remarked that the Bulgarians must still have a lively though painful recollection of his administration of Adrianople during the latter stages of the Russian war. His fingers itched, he said, for a similar opportunity in order to dispel all ideas the Armenians might have of reforms and agitation for better treatment.

Djemil Pasha was brought up in the Palace at Constantinople, and is an adept in Palace intrigue, but he measures his conduct in accordance with the advice he from time to time receives from his father, Namyk Pasha, who is supposed to be deeply in the Sultan's confidence, and I cannot but suspect that this sudden outburst of zeal in persecuting an unoffending and down-trodden people is not without some occult cause or object. I am certain that he would not talk so freely and openly of the so-called Bulgarians of Asia Minor without some encouragement or assurance that in so doing he would ingratiate himself with the Sultan. His Excellency is well aware that the Sultan fears him too much to allow him to return to Constantinople, and he takes full advantage of his anomalous position to gratify his personal feelings, or enrich himself, as the case may be, and his reports to the Porte and Palace are fables invented to suit the passing fancy which he knows to be in the ascendant with the Sultan.

I am quite aware of the futility of having any orders sent from the Porte to his Excellency, enjoining him to moderate his conduct, or to act in a less malevolent spirit towards the poor people in question, as his Excellency pays no attention to any orders the Grand Vizier or other Ministers send him, and any such orders would probably cause him to emphasize his persecution, and bring further misery and suffering on the objects of our solicitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

*Consul Henderson to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Aleppo, May 22, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of yesterday, I omitted to mention that the Mufetish Adlia, to whom I spoke about this matter some time ago, informed me confidentially that he had carefully examined all the documents relative to the seven prisoners now liberated by Djemil Pasha, and that he had verified that they had been justly condemned by the local Tribunals at Gisser. He gave me to understand that the Tribunals at Aleppo were completely under the Vali's influence, and that no Tribunal could be found to pass any sentence at variance with the wishes of his Excellency.

In the event of any steps being taken with the view of obtaining a new trial, I would respectfully suggest that its venue should be changed to another vilayet —Adana or Damascus—as it would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a fair trial at Aleppo, where the Armenian element has been carefully eliminated from the Tribunals by the Vali, although from 75 to 80 per cent. of the Christian population of the vilayet belong to the Armenian community.

To such an extent has the Vali's conduct exasperated the Armenians, that the Bishop of Lattaquie, under whose jurisdiction the village of Kneya is placed, himself leaves for Constantinople, to endeavour to obtain some relief for his suffering flock. He begged me to give him a letter of introduction to you, which I have given him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.



P.S.—I find that the outrage in question was perpetrated in the house of the Armenian priest, and not within the precincts of the church.

P. H.

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No. 54.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)*

(No. 377.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, June 16, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 323 of the 26th ultimo, copy of a further despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting the unwillingness of Protestants to give evidence against Ali Pasha, and the proceedings of the Lazes, through fear of the consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 54.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Trebizond, June 5, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, having applied to a Protestant preacher residing at Ordoo, as the most trustworthy source to obtain further information with regard to the contents of my despatches of the 10th ultimo, one of which is marked No. 19, he begged me to apply to some one else, not daring himself to give details respecting the Laz immigrants and Ali Pasha.

He states, however, that robberies by Lazes are daily heard of; that lately travellers were plundered on the Tchambachi road; that the son of a well-to-do Mussulman of Ibasti was carried off, and a ransom of 500*l.* asked for his release; that a man was murdered at the village of Meshed; and also adds that, so long as Ali Pasha (Tsoorooksooli) is allowed to remain at Ordoo, no change for the better is to be hoped.

My informant further states that the members of the Courts of Justice are worse than the ruffians themselves who practise brigandage on the mountains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 55.

E *Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21.)*

(No. 383.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 373 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that I learn, upon what I believe to be good authority, that the Report which has been forwarded to the Palace by the Committee of Ministers which sat a short time ago to consider the question of reforms contained the following suggestions:—

1. That the municipal officers should be elected by the population, throughout the Empire.

2. That there should be a redistribution of the vilayets throughout Asia Minor, and that each existing vilayet should be divided into three or four. The object of this proposal is, I am told, that in the event of the Turkish Government having to appoint Christian Governors to any vilayets in Asia Minor, they should have smaller districts to govern than they would under present circumstances.

3. That the police and the gendarmerie are to be reformed; but that, owing to the expenditure this measure would entail, it is not to be taken into consideration until the Financial Article in favour of Turkey in the Treaty of Berlin shall have been carried into effect.

These proposals, although forwarded to the Sultan, did not, I understand, meet with the unanimous approval of the Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 56.

*Acting Consul Moncrieff to Earl Granville.—(Received June 26.)*

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Jeddah, June 11, 1883.*

WITH reference to Vice-Consul Razzak's despatch No. 7 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Sheikh Obeidullah appears to have obtained the desired permission to reside at Mecca or Tayeff, according to the season, instead of at Medineh.

He left Jeddah the middle of last month for Mecca, and three or four days ago went to Tayeff, where the Grand Shereef, the Vali, and the principal officials are passing the summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYNEDOCH N. MONCRIEFF.

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No. 57.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 251.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 4, 1883.*

THE despatches from Mr. Consul Henderson, inclosed in your No. 374 of the 15th ultimo, contain serious charges against Djemil Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo, who appears to display the greatest animosity towards the Armenians in his vilayet.

I approve your having communicated an extract from these despatches to the Porte, and I have to instruct you to take any favourable opportunity to endeavour to obtain the removal of Djemil Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 58.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received July 19.)*

(No. 425.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 9, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 302 of the 12th May, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Eyres, of Erzeroum, in which he states what sentences have been passed upon the Armenians who were recently arrested on a charge of plotting the overthrow of the existing Government.

I have requested Colonel Everett to send me more detailed information on the subject, but in the meantime, I have learnt here that in the event of the sentence of the Court being confirmed by the Court of Appeal at Constantinople, to which the case is about to be referred, his Beatitude the Patriarch intends praying the Sultan to pardon the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 58.

*Mr. Eyres to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June 28, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that sentence has at length been passed on the Armenians accused of plotting to overthrow the Government.

One has been condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment, two to ten years, one to seven years, four to six years, thirty-one to five years, one to police surveillance for two years, and sixteen have been acquitted; one also has escaped. This brings the total up to fifty-seven.

The general feeling here is, that the severity of the sentences is so disproportionate to the crime, that His Majesty the Sultan will be compelled to exercise his Imperial clemency in remitting the most part of the punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.



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No. 59.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 2.)*

(No. 22.)
(Extract.) *Erzeroum, July 13, 1883.*

I HAVE already reported to you by telegraph my arrival here; at the same time I mentioned to you that Mr. Eyres, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for Van, having been officially granted leave by the Foreign Office last year, before leaving Scutari, had also been given to understand at Constantinople that he would be able to avail himself of the permission he was then unable to take as soon as I should arrive at Erzeroum. As these matters occurred before Mr. Eyres came under my orders, I asked for your decision. In your telegraphic answer you informed me that there was no record of any promise of leave to Mr. Eyres, and that even if he were granted it he should postpone it should his departure inconvenience the public service—a matter I could best judge of. You also added that if I should go to the frontier you thought he should remain. As it appears highly probable that I shall go to the frontier, and as, in my opinion, it is especially important that the English Representative should make his appearance at Van, and as also it is very necessary that a Consular officer should go as soon as possible to Bitlis to examine into the case of robbery and assault upon the American missionaries, already reported to you in Mr. Eyres' telegram of the 1st June, I came to the conclusion that at this moment it was not desirable that Mr. Eyres should leave the country; and I have accordingly ordered that officer to proceed to Van immediately, viâ Bitlis. In mentioning these circumstances, it gives me great pleasure to bring to your notice the excellent spirit in which Mr. Eyres, though fully under the idea that he was about to enjoy leave to which he had become entitled, has taken his orders to proceed further east, notwithstanding that he is put thereby to great personal inconvenience; and I sincerely hope that when he is able to take his leave, the cheerful alacrity with which he is now going about his duty may not be overlooked.

I have nothing special to report in connection with my journey from the confines of my district to Erzeroum except that the condition of the road from Trebizond is much better than when last I traversed it. There is much to be done though before it is really convenient for wheeled vehicles, while there is so much left undone that a single winter will leave it again in a very dilapidated condition. I understand that a French Company at Constantinople is endeavouring to obtain a Concession for it, and that the only point remaining to be settled is the width to be conceded, the Company demanding 67 metres, rather more than the Government are inclined to give.

Ilyassim Bey, an Albanian from Scutari, recently appointed Mutessarif of Bayazid, proceeded to his post before my arrival. I understand that he is an intelligent man, and likely to give satisfaction to the people; of this we shall be better able to judge later on.

A disturbance between Armenians took place on Sunday last at Van. It appears that a short time ago a number of Notables of that place addressed a letter to the Vali, Hassan Pasha, in which they expressed their delight at being permitted to live under a Government so perfect in every respect that reforms of any nature were superfluous. It seems that these Notables have since been decorated with an Order by the Sultan. Last Sunday, however, they were, so I am informed, mobbed by the people and severely handled, but I have no precise particulars.

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No. 60.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)*

(No. 441.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 425 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Everett, giving

* Inclosed in Mr. Wyndham's despatch No. 437 of July 24, 1883.

further information respecting the trial at Erzeroum of certain Armenians accused of conspiring against the Government of the Sultan.

The Earl of Dufferin in his despatch No. 302 of the 12th May last reported to your Lordship that I had suggested to the Porte that it would be probably politic to show clemency to the accused, but I am afraid that at present any further intervention on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy on their behalf might be prejudicial to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 60.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 23.)

*Erzeroum, July* 13, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith further details connected with the subject of Mr. Eyres' despatch No. 20 of the 28th ultimo, as requested in your telegram of the 7th instant.

The Memorandum is a translated extract from a Report on the whole affair, which has been kindly prepared for me by a member of the community. It is to be observed that nineteen men out of thirty-nine sentenced to imprisonment can neither read nor write, and since their crime would appear to consist in their names being found written on lists which were in possession of others among the accused, it is probable that they knew very little of what they were doing.

From inquiries which I have been making since my return, it seems that certain men who were more or less initiated went round to their fellow villagers asking leave to write their names down as members of the Society.

In cases where these recruiters were taken, the names of their unfortunate recruits were found also, and these were immediately arrested, in some cases, I fear, simply on the assertion of the informers, unsupported by any written proofs.

Michael, the engraver, whose sentence is two years' police surveillance, and who is at this moment in the employ of the Government, is the man who prepared the stones from which the papers were lithographed. I believe he was able to throw considerable light on the affair, but no action has been taken on his evidence, because orders were received from the Porte to cease making other arrests.

There can be no question that the wisest and most just course to be pursued by the Porte would be the entire remission of the lesser punishments and the reduction of the term of imprisonment in the cases of those more deeply implicated, for in the present list of prisoners we only see, with one or two exceptions, the names of uneducated townsmen and simple villagers, who, knowing scarcely if at all for what object they were enlisted, are but the dupes of others who should have known better the true interests of their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 60.

*Memorandum on the Course of Events connected with the Trial of certain Armenians accused of "Revolting against the Government, with the Intention of detaching the Province of Erzeroum and the Country in the Vicinity ('les environs') from the Sovereignty of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan," from the quashing of the Proceedings in the Supreme Court at Constantinople to the present Time.*

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

ON the 12th June Krikor Effendi Yanikian, member of the Civil Section of the Court of First Instance, was elected a member of the Court about to retry the prisoners in place of Riza Effendi, who, having acted as an examiner, was declared incompetent to sit upon the Court as Judge.

On the 13th June the whole of the accused, assisted by their counsel, were interrogated before the Court of Appeal, the sitting lasting nearly an hour, with closed doors. Towards the end of the sitting there was considerable confusion and



some excitement, owing to one of the Advocates being ordered out of Court by the President of the Tribunal.

On the 20th June the Court sat for three hours, when all the documents were read. On the previous evening copies of former examinations had been handed to the counsel, who requested two or three days to examine them, but the request was refused. The sitting was continued throughout the following day, and at the close of the examination the Public Prosecutor insisted upon the criminal nature of the charge.

The three counsel refuted it, on the ground that there had been no action. The Court then adjourned.

On the 21st June the Court reassembled in order to pronounce Judgment.

The President then ordered the Recorder to read the different Petitions which the accused had presented to the Court. These documents were intended to show that there had been no act of rebellion, and no intention to detach the Vilayet of Erzeroum from the sovereign power. They allowed that a Society had been formed, but only with most benevolent purposes connected with the welfare and prosperity of the Armenian community, such as the drawing up of Regulations calculated to encourage a better moral tone and to discourage drinking, &c. Sundays and fête days were to be set apart for instruction.

The reading of these documents was more than once interrupted by the President, who jeered at the ideas expressed by the prisoners.

The Court then adjourned for deliberation, and, reassembling after two hours and a-half, pronounced a sentence of acquittal on sixteen of the accused, at the same time declaring the remaining forty to be guilty of the charge brought against them.

In the subjoined list is shown the names of those acquitted, together with their ages and professions:—

| Name. | Age. | Profession. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chakmakdji Dikran .. .. .. | 20 | Armourer .. .. | Cannot read or write. |
| Mardiros, of Kevokhor .. .. .. | 22 | Shoemaker, .. | " " |
| Mgokhos, of Krinje .. .. .. | 25 | " | |
| Mugerditch, of Zitoluk .. .. .. | 22 | Agriculturist .. | " " |
| Ephem, of Zitoluk .. .. .. | 28 | " .. | " " |
| Setrak, of Chiftlik .. .. .. | 26 | " .. | " " |
| Mardiros, of Sheikh-Keuy .. .. | 26 | " .. | " " |
| Ohannes Ghoshian .. .. .. | 36 | Shoemaker. | |
| Mardiros, of Zitoluk .. .. .. | 20 | Agriculturist .. | " " |
| Agap Ghazarossian .. .. .. | 28 | Shoemaker. | |
| Khachatour Tazarian .. .. .. | 25 | Umbrella-maker. | |
| Toros, of Zitoluk .. .. .. | 20 | Agriculturist .. | " " |
| Boghos Babikian .. .. .. | 26 | Tailor .. .. | " " |
| Meroule Hakaltian .. .. .. | 23 | Servant. | |
| Dikran Gueredilian .. .. .. | 19 | " | |
| Gerabet Aroutian .. .. .. | 25 | Muleteer. | |

The Public Prosecutor then demanded that the full penalty of the law (capital punishment) should be pronounced on three of the accused, and a sentence of transportation for life on the remaining thirty-seven. The Advocates responding begged for clemency. The Court then retired for further deliberation, and, on reassembling, passed sentence as follows:—

| Name. | Age. | Profession. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Khachadour Gueroklian .. | 37 | Lacemaker.. .. | 15 years' imprisonment. |
| 2. Ohannes Gueroklian .. .. | 26 | Confectioner .. | 10 " " |
| 3. Agap Terzibashian .. .. | 24 | Merchant .. .. | 10 " " |
| 4. Aliksan .. .. .. | 28 | Shoemaker.. .. | 7 " " |
| 5. Kaloust Kalayji .. .. | 31 | Tinker .. .. | 6 " " |
| 6. Kaloust Tamkajian .. .. | 32 | Professor .. .. | 6 " " |
| 7. Shavarsh Ohannesian .. .. | 23 | Tailor .. .. | 6 " " |
| 8. Hadji Ohannes .. .. | 30 | Shoemaker.. .. | 6 " " |
| 9. Minas Chilingir .. .. | 30 | Locksmith.. .. | 5 " " |
| 10. Khachatour Avakian .. .. | 20 | Miller .. .. | 5 " " |
| 11. Agap Sereguirian .. .. | 27 | Tailor .. .. | 5 " " |
| 12. Pasha Tatos .. .. .. | 22 | Stevemaker .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years imprisonment. |

| Name. | Age. | Profession. | Remarks. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. Ehramji Bâlus .. .. | 35 | Woollen-cloth-maker . | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 14. Artin .. .. .. | 33 | Shoemaker.. .. | 5 " " |
| 15. Agap Bedrossian .. .. | 20 | Tailor .. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 16. Agap Serropion .. .. | 19 | Shoemaker.. .. | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 17. Temourji Ohannes .. .. | 30 | Blacksmith .. .. | 5 " " |
| 18. Ghazaros .. .. .. | 24 | Farrier .. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 19. Laginji Garâbet .. .. | 30 | Watchsmith .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 20. Laginji Arout .. .. | 35 | .. .. | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 21. Mikji Higakhos .. .. | 30 | Nailmaker.. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 22. Lapjinji Bedross .. .. | 30 | Cobbler .. .. | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 23. Khachadour Baboyan .. .. | 27 | Shoemaker.. .. | 5 " " |
| 24. Mugurdich Sarkisian .. .. | 18 | Servant .. .. | 5 " " |
| 25. Sarkis Aboyan .. .. | 20 | Agriculturist .. | 5 " " |
| 26. Krikor Seferian .. .. | 18 | Shoemaker.. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 27. Anakim Zitahokh .. .. | 17 | Agriculturist .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 28. Kirop, of Kevakhor .. .. | 20 | " .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 29. Dirtat, of Kevakhor .. .. | 24 | " .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 30. Ohannes Linikjian .. .. | 16 | Shoemaker's apprentice | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 31. Avakim Avakian, of Zitahokh .. | 22 | Agriculturist .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years imprisonment. |
| 32. Hovnan, of Zitahokh .. .. | 22 | " .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 33. Agap, of Zitahokh .. .. | 30 | " .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 34. Garâbet Ismelian .. .. | 22 | Gunmaker (Russian subject) | 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 35. Sarkis, of Chiftlik .. .. | 30 | Joiner .. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 36. Nazar, of Chiftlik .. .. | 30 | " .. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 37. Tatos .. .. .. | 22 | Shoemaker.. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 38. Pilus Balakhian .. .. | 20 | Agriculturist .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |
| 39. Artin, of Chiftlik .. .. | 37 | Shoemaker.. .. | Cannot read or write. 5 years' imprisonment. |

A certain Michael, painter and engraver, has been pardoned on condition that he remains under police surveillance for a period of two years.

One other, Garabell Nishguian, has been accused, but has never been captured.

The counsel are now preparing for an appeal to the Supreme Court at Constantinople; in the meantime, there is a general belief that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan will remit the sentence.

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## No. 61.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)*

(No. 461.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 10, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Everett, Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, transmitting a Petition from a large number of Armenians at Van to Her Majesty's Ambassador, in which they protest against a document which has been signed by thirteen Armenians, and forwarded to the Grand Vizier and the Palace, setting forth that no reforms are required.

The document alluded to in the Petition, of which I inclose a translation, was obtained under pressure.

I have acknowledged the receipt of Lieutenant-Colonel Everett's despatch,



and have informed him that I have forwarded a copy of it, and a translation of the Petition, to your Lordship.

The original Petition is deposited in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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### Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

*Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 28.) *Erzeroum, July 24, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a Petition, addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and signed by about 1,759 inhabitants of Van and its environs, which has been forwarded to me through Mr. Baghdasarian, Dragoman to the British Vice-Consulate at Van.

It appears that this Petition is one of four, and that the others are addressed to His Majesty the Sultan, to the Armenian Patriarch, and to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople respectively.

The main object of its presentation is evidently to put upon record how entirely the Armenian population refutes the assertions made in the document alluded to in the Petition.

In my despatch No. 22 of the 13th July I have made mention of this document, and also of the disturbance at Van. On this subject Mr. Baghdasarian writes as follows:—

"On the 8th July a disturbance broke out here among the Armenian population, on account of a Mazbata which, according to the newspapers of Constantinople, was addressed by a few Armenians to the Sultan. The people, greatly excited, made an attack on the Bishop's house, while a meeting of the civil and ecclesiastical authorities was being held there, and beat severely some of the members who had signed the Mazbata in question."

He also says that this unheard-of demonstration on the part of the people has made a great impression on the Vali, and that the general condition of the country is very unsatisfactory, acts of depredation being committed daily.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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### Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

*Petition from Armenians of Van.*

(Translation.)

To his Excellency the Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at Constantinople.

*Van, July 6, 1883.*

My Lord,

IN the last newspaper we read an announcement, published with the signatures of thirteen Armenians of Van, and addressed to the Grand Vizier and to the Chief Secretary of the Imperial Palace.

The subscribers to this document are private individuals, the greater part of whom, though members of the Government, are none the less oppressed.

These men prepared the document under positive pressure, and its contents being altogether contrary to facts as hitherto ascertained, and wholly inconsistent with our present desperate condition, we, the people, being in the highest degree provoked, now address your Lordship.

Firstly, seeing that the Ottoman Government has ordained that the Arachnort (Dean), together with the National Assembly and the Ecclesiastical and Civil Councils, should be the representatives of the people, we protest against these thirteen persons who, disregarding the laws, have taken upon themselves to represent us.

Secondly, we wish to point out that these individuals have, in signing such a declaration, only looked to their own personal profit and advancement, while by concealing the grave injuries which have been inflicted on the people, injuries which, through lapse of time, seem to be becoming irremediable, they are driving the people to extremities.

It may, in addition, be remarked that in thus acting they are daring to express an

opinion actually in opposition to His Majesty the Sultan's convictions, will, and manifestoes. For His Majesty is perfectly acquainted with the existing abuses and the necessity for reforms, while his Ministers, equally convinced, are incessantly deliberating with a view to find some remedy for the country.

Thus these false flatterers, when they declare the country to be perfectly tranquil, when they say that there are absolutely no grievances, that there is no necessity for reforms, &c., are proceeding in a course of action contrary to the philanthropic wishes of the Sultan.

Omitting, my Lord, the oppressions of each individual year, a list of which would fill volumes, we will here only present to you some instances of events which have taken place since the signing of the document above alluded to:—

1. The people of Khizan emigrated to Van, and could scarcely be persuaded to return.

2. Numbers have emigrated from the villages of Alzavez on account of extortion in collecting the land tax, &c.

3. A Persian caravan has been attacked, one man being killed, and several others seriously wounded.

4. Dr. Reynolds and his companion have been robbed and severely wounded.

5. Buffaloes have been carried off from the village of Archag.

6. Near Shah Baghi travellers have been attacked, one being wounded, and their property has been stolen.

7. Sheep have been carried off from the village of Doni, in the same district.

8. Sheep, cows, oxen, and horses have been carried off from the villages of Lezk, Kantzag, Vaventz, Sheyveker, and Aghboulak, &c.

It is to be regretted that his Excellency the Governor-General of this place, though for seven years he has administered the country, has, unfortunately, left nothing by which he may be remembered. It is also to be regretted that he should, instead of removing abuses, give his support to such a profitless and dangerous enterprise (as the preparation of the above-mentioned document). It is true, by so doing, he has successfully attracted the attention of the Porte, and obtained for himself many decorations, and for certain individuals (blind agents of his short-sighted policy) honours and Orders, but at the same time he is reducing the people to desperation, to the prejudice of the true interests of the Government.

Remaining ever in the hope of relief, we submit our complaints to your Excellency for the consideration of the British Government, and we have, &c.

(Signed by 1,759 inhabitants of Van and its environs.)

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No. 62.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 465. Secret.)

*Therapia, August* 10, 1883.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of Lieutenant-Colonel Everett's despatch No. 28 of the 24th ultimo, copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 464 of this date, I have the honour to report that I directed Mr. Mariniteh, Second Dragoman in Her Majesty's Embassy, to call upon the Armenian Patriarch (with whom he is upon intimate terms), and to endeavour to learn from him what he had heard as to the recent disturbances at Van caused by some Armenians having informed the Palace and the Porte that no reforms were needed.

I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's confidential information, copy of Mr. Mariniteh's report to me of his conversation with Mgr. Nersès, from which you will see that the country is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and that his Beatitude is of opinion that the state of affairs there has become aggravated since the cause of the Armenians was taken up by England, and since she no longer exercises pressure upon the Ottoman Government for the introduction of reforms.

Under present circumstances, when not only Germany and Austria, but also Russia and France, appear to be anxious not to do anything which might in any way irritate the Sultan, it appears to me to be very difficult for Her Majesty's Government to exercise sufficient pressure upon His Majesty to induce him to take effectual measures to remedy the state of affairs in the eastern part of his Empire in Asia Minor.

Moreover, insecurity for life and property prevails not only there but elsewhere, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Smyrna, for instance, the country is a prey to



brigandage, and not long ago an Italian gentleman named Corpi was seized in broad daylight close to Ismidt, and only released after the payment by his relations of a sum of £ T. 1,100 (1,000*l.*) to the brigands who had captured him, none of whom have, as far as I can learn, been up to this moment arrested.

I venture to call your Lordship's attention to Mgr. Nersès' request that his remarks may not be made public.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 62.

*Memorandum by Mr. Mariniteh.*

(Secret et Confidentiel.)

SUIVANT les ordres de M. le Chargé d'Affaires, je me suis rendu chez le Patriarche Arménien pour l'entretenir au sujet de la Pétition des Arméniens de Van et lui demander ce qu'il en pensait.

Mgr. Nersès m'a résumé ainsi qu'il suit la situation de l'affaire:—

Treize Arméniens de Van adressèrent un télégramme au Palais pour exposer à Sa Majesté que les Arméniens étaient satisfaits, qu'ils voulaient continuer à vivre sous l'égide paternel du Sultan, et qu'ils n'avaient pas besoin de réformes. La plupart des signataires étant au service du Gouvernement avaient agi sous l'empire des menaces et de la pression du Vali Hassan Pacha, lequel, en arrachant cette manifestation télégraphique, voulait apparemment se faire un mérite tant auprès de son Souverain que de la Sublime Porte.

Pour prouver que ce télégramme n'exprimait pas les vrais sentiments de ceux qui l'ont rédigé, le Patriarche Arménien a reçu une lettre de ces mêmes individus déclarant à leur chef spirituel qu'ils se sont vus obligés de faire une pareille démarche, et qu'ils ne partagent point les vues qu'ils ont exprimées à Sa Majesté Impériale.

Quoi qu'il en soit, dès que les Arméniens de Van ont eu connaissance du susdit télégramme ils ont adressé une Pétition au Grand Vizir ainsi qu'à Mgr. Nersès, couverte de 3,000 signatures environ dans le but de faire une contre-démonstration.

Dans leur requête ils flétrissent la conduite des signataires du télégramme, exposent les vexations et les abus auxquels ils sont sans cesse en butte et font ressortir la nécessité d'introduire des réformes.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, sur l'ordre du Grand Vizir, a transmis la susdite requête au Patriarche Arménien en le priant de vouloir bien faire connaître son opinion.

Le Conseil National Arménien s'est occupé hier de la réponse à donner à la Sublime Porte. Elle sera transmise entre aujourd'hui et demain. Le Patriarche dira en substance qu'il considère la démarche des pétitionnaires de Van comme plus patriotique que celle des signataires du télégramme, attendu que les pétitionnaires, parmi lesquels figurent des gens très honnêtes et très respectables, ainsi que le clergé Arménien, tout en déclarant qu'ils veulent continuer à vivre sous le sceptre magnanime du Sultan, font ressortir la nécessité des réformes—réformes que le Souverain lui-même a reconnu nécessaires; tandis que les signataires du télégramme ont voulu cacher au Sultan une situation qui devient de plus en plus insoutenable.

A ce propos le Patriarche Arménien a ajouté que Mr. Wyndham connaît lui-même très bien la façon dont les affaires marchent dans la capitale de l'Empire pour pouvoir apprécier quels abus et quels injustices se commettent dans les Provinces, et juger à quel point les populations en souffrent. A l'appui de cette assertion, le Patriarche a dit que parmi une foule d'autres il a reçu des rapports navrants du vilayet de Trébizonde, ainsi que du côté de Yalova, où les autorités tolèrent les vols et les assassinats commis impunément par les Circassiens, et arrachent indistinctement les propriétés des Musulmans et des Chrétiens pour les donner aux réfugiés de la Bosnie, de Batoum, et autres que le Gouverneur installe dans ces contrées.

Mgr. Nersès a conclu par dire qu'en général la situation des Arméniens s'est de beaucoup agravée depuis que l'Angleterre, après avoir pris l'initiative des réformes à introduire en Asie, n'exerce plus de pression sur le Gouvernement Impérial, qui se sent libre d'agir à sa guise.

Tout ce qui précède m'ayant été communiquée à titre secret et confidentiel par le Patriarche, sa Grandeur désire que ce Rapport ne figure pas dans le "Blue Book,"

car il le placerait dans une position difficile et désagréable vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Impérial et du Sultan.

(Signé) MARINITCH.

*Péra, le 9 Août*, 1883.

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No. 63.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 16.)*

(No. 469.) *Constantinople, August 10*, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, with reference to Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 1134 of the 26th December, 1881, and to my despatch No. 1082 of the 27th November, 1882, copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Biliotti, reporting a fresh outrage at Hodortchoor.

I have brought the matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and have drawn their attention to the suggestion of Mr. Biliotti, that a company or two of soldiers should be stationed at Ispir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 63.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 29.) *Trebizond, July 31*, 1883.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 71 of the 15th December, 1881, and No. 49 of the 3rd November last, I have the honour to report that a fresh outrage took place at Hodortchoor towards the beginning of last month, on the subject of which I only lately obtained reliable details.

As usual, the authors of it are the members of the notorious family at Rizeh of the Tuiliaglous, the Chief of whom is Salih Baïraktar, assisted by his brothers Ahmed and Kutchuk Salih Baïraktar.

They have as followers Doursoru, Hassan, and Hussein, sons of the first; Reshed and Mehemed, sons of the second; Ashan and Peea, sons of the third; as well as two other Tuiliaglous, Dourali and Koozogloo Hussein, and, when required, other brigands, whose recruiting is an easy matter at Rizeh.

According to their practice, they proceeded to Hodortchoor with a few loads of tobacco each, weighing from 12 to 13 batmans (6 okes each), which they compelled the peasants to accept at one-third more than the actual weight, insisting that the payment should be made in gold.

Besides the village of Hodortchoor, where they thus sold seven loads of tobacco for 160*l.*, and, in addition, carried off cotton goods which were for sale, and represented a value of 38*l.*, they likewise disposed, at Gamrick, of four loads for 85*l.*; at Maborgud, two loads for 45*l.*; and at Hadrocheu, one load of tobacco, together with another of Indian corn, for 25*l.*; and exacted 8*l.* from another village whose inhabitants were too poor to indulge in the purchase of tobacco.

Nine or ten days later they returned, and loaded at Gamrick nine, and at Maborgud five, horses with effects to their convenience, exacting at the same time 6*l.* from the latter village.

The Tuiliaglous told the Armenians that they should be prepared to give them contribution from time to time, as they were the real masters of the country, and in justification of their assertion stated that, had it not been so, they would have been prevented to levy black-mail by the Government authorities, before whose very doors they were passing unmolested with their loads of tobacco and their return loads of spoils, and I must say that this is perfectly true.

The Tuiliaglous, on leaving Hodortchoor, gave the inhabitants the comforting information that, as their wives were not smoking tobacco, they would not fail to soon return with wares to their own convenience, such as honey, butter, &c.

The Government at Trebizond is powerless to arrest this gang of brigands, for two motives: the first is, that in this case, as in all others of depredations in this vilayet, the local Beys who hold employment under the Government are the abettors of



brigands, and have a share in the spoils; the second motive is, that there is no sufficient police force to cope with the Tuiliaglous, who, in addition to their own twelve guns, and to those of their occasional followers, are, when wanted by the police, reinforced by a score of their women, armed to the teeth, and who are more dreaded than the men themselves.

A certain Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, who was Kaïmakam at Rizeh in 1878, seriously undertook to put down the Tuiliaglous, and, at much personal risk, succeeded to arrest a few of them; but they were released, or allowed to escape from prison, and he was dismissed for his pains.

Since that time the Tuiliaglous have regularly made raids in the Armenian district of Hodortchoor (Vilayet of Erzeroum), and now seem to be allowed to do so with perfect impunity; but that the Porte should continue to tolerate such a state of things appears so improbable, that I take the liberty to suggest that if general measures for the repression of brigandage are difficult to adopt, there is a measure, of easy application for protecting the inhabitants of Hodortchoor, and which, when resorted to in 1878, prevented further incursions in that quarter.

The measure consists in having one or two companies of soldiers stationed at Ispir, which is the head-quarters of the district, or, if need be, nearer to Hodortchoor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 64.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received August 30.)*

(No. 477.) *Constantinople, August 20*, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Everett, inclosing a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres, reporting on the condition of the country. I have brought the unsatisfactory state of affairs, as reported in the above-mentioned despatch, to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 31.) *Erzeroum, August 9*, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of a despatch I have received from Mr. Eyres, dated Bitlis, 30th July.

His story is a sad one, but I was in some measure prepared for it, and, indeed, have only been awaiting the corroboration of our own Vice-Consul before reporting the state of anarchy, which I had heard existed in the central provinces composing this Consular district.

Mehemet Ali, to whom Mr. Eyres alludes, is a Chief of the Hassananli tribe of Kurds, and has a son who is at this moment in prison.

A week or two before my arrival this redoubtable free-booter took possession of an entire caravan, horses and all. He also, not very long ago, released with his own hand, and with eighty horsemen at his back, a relation, who had been imprisoned by the Kaïmakam of Bulanyk. In fact, he does very much what he chooses throughout both the districts of Chanous and Moosh, and declares that he will continue to do so until the Government releases his son from prison.

His tribe, and that of the Sipikli (an off-shoot of the Hassananli), are now quarrelling. According to the story that has been told me, a band of the Hassananli went raiding into Persia, and returned with a quantity of horses, which were captured by some Sipiklis in the name of the Government. A party from the Hassananli then retaliated. They attacked a Sipikli village, and carried off about 300 sheep. Shortly afterwards a fight ensued, in which Mehemet Ali figured as a champion of the Hassananli, and five of the Sipikli were killed.

The Sipikli Chiefs then had recourse to the Government, asking for justice; but in the meantime they have made an alliance with the Haideranli, a powerful tribe dwelling between Bayazid and Van, and they have declared if justice is not done that they will take the matter into their own hands. Three days ago, however, I received information that Kyassim Beg, the new Mutessarif for Bayazid, had secured several Hassananli Chiefs; so it is to be hoped that the disturbance may be checked before it grows too serious.

I have to report a disgraceful occurrence in the neighbourhood of Chanous:—

A certain Armenian of that town bought a village named Simo, and expended on it a considerable sum of money (about £T. 800). A short time ago a body of Circassian refugees, numbering some fifty families, swooped down on the village and turned out the residents. With the exception of putting two or three in prison no steps have been taken to reinstate the original tenants, and the village still remains in the hands of the Circassians, who are destroying everything. I have written privately to the Vali on this subject, as I had reason to believe he was kept ignorant of the truth; but I have not heard yet whether any action has been taken in the matter.

I regret to say the oppressions by the Kurds alluded to in Mr. Eyres' despatch are not confined to the district from which he writes. Throughout the last eight months I have seldom heard from Mr. Boyajian, our Acting Vice-Consul for Diarbekir, without his mentioning some act of lawlessness or brigandage committed by members of these tribes. He says on this matter: "If the authorities act with their usual apathy in pursuing and bringing these criminals to justice all security to travellers is at an end, and the little existing commerce with Aleppo will cease, leaving the already impoverished inhabitants in a still more wretched condition."

In one of his last letters he reports disturbances on the borders of the desert between the Shamar Arabs and a clan called Tai, and also disorders among the Kurds in the Shurnak Kaza lying between Sert and Jezireh.

To the south-west, also in the neighbourhood of Keghi, two other Kurdish tribes, the Hormakli and the Djibranli, have fallen out, so that the country in several directions is disturbed, while it is seldom that any serious attempt is made to restore tranquillity.

I will not comment on evils which, by no means new, are merely just now somewhat aggravated. To picture a more discreditable state of things or conduct more likely to bring a country to ruin would be perhaps impossible. Meanwhile, the people, that is, the agricultural classes, suffer beyond conception of those who have the good fortune to dwell in countries where such evils do not exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have heard that a battalion from Moosh and some troops from Bayazid have been moved into the Hassananli country for the purpose of keeping order. An engagement between the Kurds and the troops is also reported, but on this head I have no certain information.

W. E.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

*Vice-Consul Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 1.) *Bitlis, July 30, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival here on the 24th instant, and in accordance with instructions received from you I proceed at once to give you such information as I was able to obtain with respect to the condition of the country through which I passed.

I found that the inhabitants of the villages between Madrak and Khanous all united in declaring that that district was infested by Kurdish robbers, and that it was totally unsafe for travellers, especially if any road be chosen except the post road. The Kurds themselves seem to fear attacks from their own compatriots quite as much as Christians and Turks. The Palantoken-Dagh, which was a favourite haunt of highway robbers formerly, is now, however, no longer resorted to by them. The state of affairs on the south side of Khanous as far as Moosh is, if possible, still more unsatisfactory. I heard the most bitter complaints on every side of the extortions to which the wretched inhabitants had to submit, firstly, from the robber bands, the principal of which consists of about fifty horsemen, captained by a noted Kurd, Mehemet Ali; and, secondly, from the soldiers who are, from time to time, sent in pursuit of them. If energetic measures were used the capture of these brigands would be a matter of the greatest facility; but at present the villagers dare not give information to the Government, for they know that if any of these brigands were captured through such information it would not be long before they would again be let loose, by means of bribery and other corrupt influence, and then they would avenge themselves on their betrayers.



The Armenians appeared to me to be everywhere in the last stage of desperation; what with oppression or neglect on the part of the Government, exactions on the part of the Mussulmans, and the loss of their beasts of burden and flocks and herds at the hands of the roving Kurds, they say that barely enough is left to them for subsistence. This year is worse than last year, and last year was worse than the preceding one. The greatest complaints, however, are directed against the Government, and it is only too evident that the local authorities have lately developed a most oppressive policy against the Christians. Their extreme malignity may, perhaps, be accounted for by the effect the discovery of the Armenian conspiracy at Erzeroum produced on the Turks. Christian members of Councils are ousted from their seats without any pretext, not even a semblance of attention is paid to the complaints of Armenians, and when they are bold enough to claim justice they meet with punishment.

The relations of the Armenians to the Kurds are somewhat mixed. In some places there is considerable cordiality and friendship between these two races, and I believe it to be a fact, that some years ago good feeling generally prevailed, but now in many places their relations are strained, partly owing, it is said, to the fact that the poverty of the Armenians prevents the interchange of presents that was a custom formerly.

Between Moosh and Bitlis the Kurds are completely masters of the country, and their evil deeds are connived at, if not encouraged, by the Governor-General of Bitlis. The roads are not safe for travellers, and scarcely a day passes without news being brought of an attack on some villager by Kurdish marauders. The villagers dare not defend themselves, for, should a Kurd lose his life, they are tried for murder, and, at the very least, condemned to pay a heavy fine.

By far the greater part of the Christian population look to Her Majesty's Government for deliverance from their miserable condition; but, in view of the present state of affairs, it is hardly to be wondered at if their patience is nearly exhausted, and a somewhat angry feeling has possessed their minds against England, inasmuch as five years have elapsed, and they seem no nearer the promised reforms than at the date of the signature of the Berlin Treaty.

I have the honour to inclose herewith an account of the distances between Erzeroum and Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 65.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 13.)*

(No. 500.) *Therapia, September 3, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 469 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti respecting further outrages by Lazes on Armenians.

I have brought the substance of Mr. Biliotti's Report on these outrages to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM

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Inclosure in No. 65.

*Consul Billiotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 35.)
*Trebizond, August* 20, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that some time since the Armenian Bishop at Trebizond received the news that a priest had been captured at Teharchamba by the notorious Hodshogloo, and allowed to return to his home on signing a bond for 100*l*., to be paid within ten days, at the end of which term his house would have been burnt down if he had not fulfilled his promise.

According to the inquiry which has taken place, it would appear that an Armenian priest on his way to Teharchamba was in fact met by seven brigands, whom he could not identify, and that he was ordered to sign a bond for 100*l*., which he evaded doing by pretending to be insane.

The fact that the alleged threat of burning his house has not been carried out seems to point to the truth of the official report. The priest was rescued.

However, at Tchamatch, a village in the Nahié of Bookaman, Caza of Ordoo, an almost identical case, but with serious consequences, of which there appears to be no doubt, has taken place on the 12th instant.

Again an Armenian priest was captured by four Laz brigands, headed by a certain Kel-Mehmed, who asked a ransom of 20*l*.

Four Armenians having tried to rescue the priest, two of them, amongst whom the prisoner's brother, were killed on the spot; another died since from his wounds, and the fourth is in a precarious condition.

The Vali is doing all that it is possible to do without sufficient armed force to put down brigandage; but under such conditions success cannot be complete nor certain.

He has lately appointed Osman Pasha, Tchuruksooli Ali Pasha's brother, to be Kirserdar in the districts of Ordoo, Fatza, and Unieh.

I have seen very good results obtained a few years since with the Circassians at Teharchamba by one of their Chiefs being, as in the present case, intrusted by the Government with the police of the localities inhabited by them.

If the experiment now tried succeeds with the Lazes as it did with the Circassians, Osman Pasha might be confirmed by the Porte in his functions.

This may perhaps prove to be the best solution of the difficulties created by the presence at Ordoo of Ali Pasha, for unless he and his brother openly side with the turbulent Lazes, which is not likely to take place, Osman Pasha, being somewhat responsible by his functions towards the Porte for the good behaviour of his countrymen, will be compelled to use his influence towards restraining their nefarious propensities, while if his brother be removed, the Lazes may be enticed to commit more depredations than hitherto, in order to prove that his presence rather checked than encouraged them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 66.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 13.)

(No. 501.)
*Therapia, September* 3, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 322 of the 26th May last, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, stating that the Vali of Trebizond, in reply to inquiries from the Sublime Porte, has generally confirmed the truth of the statements made by Mr. Biliotti in regard to the treatment of Protestants in his Excellency's province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 66.

*Consul Billiotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 33.)
*Trebizond, August* 15, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that three weeks since the Vali received from the Porte translation, in extract, of my despatch to you No. 19 of the 10th May last, and of the Confidential one which accompanied it, with instructions to state whether their contents were in conformity with the true state of things.

In reply, Sirri Pasha lately sent copy of Reports forwarded by himself at various times to the Porte, and which fully confirmed my statements. With regard to a few facts which he had not himself brought to its notice, he stated, without contradicting them, that I may have been misled by the nature of the information given to me.

I am under the impression that there may be circumstances or considerations which it may not be convenient for Sirri Pasha himself to submit to the Porte; and, as I already stated in my forementioned despatch, though I cannot, without personal inquiry on the spot, vouch for all the details therein reported, I am firmly convinced that there is perfect truth in the outline given by me of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 67.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 13.)

(No. 520.)
*Therapia, September* 8, 1883.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegraphic despatch, dated to-day, from Lieutenant-Colonel Everett, stating that Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres reports that the Vali of Hakkiari, having arrested some Kurdish Chiefs in order to get money, was attacked, between Amadiah and Basheni, by Kurds, who rescued their Chiefs, the Governor-General escaping with difficulty with his life, and flying to Tiani.

I may mention to your Lordship that General Wallace, the United States' Minister, with reference to a recent outrage upon an American missionary near Bitlis, upon which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 456 of the 28th July last, informs me that, according to his information, the country in that neighbourhood is in a fearful state, owing to the lawless acts of the Kurds, which the authorities are too weak to repress, or at which, from pecuniary motives, they connive; and that he is addressing a strong representation to the Porte on the subject, as American missionaries there are in fear of their lives.

General Wallace states that, according to his information, the better class of Moslems are in as great terror of the Kurds as are the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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No. 68.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 27.)

(No. 533. Confidential.)
*Therapia, September* 17, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 464 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres to Colonel Everett giving some details as to the reasons which led to the presentation of an Address to Her Majesty's Ambassador by the Armenian population of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 68.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 4. Confidential.)

*Van, August* 26, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the following events which led to the presentation by the Armenian population of Van of an Address to Her Majesty's Ambassador lately forwarded to you from this place:

It will be remembered that the interview granted to a deputation of Armenians by Her Majesty's Ambassador in London caused great alarm at the Sublime Porte. The result of this was, that orders were sent to the Governors of all provinces where there is a considerable Armenian element to draw up an Address to His Majesty the Sultan, which was to be signed by representatives of the Armenian people.

This Address, which was published in the Constantinople newspapers, was to the effect that the condition of the country and the people was never so satisfactory as it is at the present moment; that justice is done to Christians and Mussulmans alike; that perfect security of life, honour, and property prevails, thanks to the energetic efforts of the police; that no reforms whatever are required; and, finally, that all the information concerning the wretched state of this country published in foreign newspapers is entirely false, and these assertions are only made by malicious persons who are enemies of the Turkish Empire.

At Van, Temour Oghlou Tahir Bey, the President of the Municipality, and a Turk of great influence, was entrusted with the task of drawing up the Address. Thirteen of the Armenian Notables were forced to sign, and it was then telegraphed to His Majesty the Sultan. The Governor-General of Van received the decoration of the Osmanie, and various rewards and decorations were distributed amongst the Armenians who had opposed their signatures.

This affair was kept strictly secret, and nothing was known about it until the post arrived from Constantinople with the newspapers containing the Address. The thirteen subscribers were characterized as the representatives of the whole Armenian population of Van.

When the facts became known they raised such a storm of indignation that the Archbishop Khrimian found it necessary to call a meeting of the principal Armenians, in order to consider what measures should be adopted to calm the people and to counteract the evil effects produced by the action of the Government.

On the 6th July the Council assembled and were proceeding to discuss the question, when some thousands of Armenians suddenly surrounded the building and sent a deputation to demand that the thirteen subscribers of the Address should at once resign whatever posts they held, whether in the Government Councils or in the National Assembly. Monseigneur Khrimian did all that lay in his power to calm the tumult, but his efforts were of no avail, and the people, seeing that the Assembly were powerless to carry out their wishes, forced their way into the building, and after a struggle laid hands on such of the offenders as were present, and beat them soundly.

The Chief of Police was sent for, but when he arrived was warned by the people not to interfere, as it was a national matter. Munir Pasha, the Military Commandant, then appeared on the scene with a small body of troops, and by a few kind and judicious words induced the crowd to withdraw, and tranquillity was restored.

The next day an Address was drawn up by the people, and copies of it were sent to the Sublime Porte, Her Majesty's Ambassador, the Russian Ambassador, and the Armenian Patriarch.

The Governor-General made inquiries about the affair, but acting on the advice of the Archbishop he made no arrests. His Excellency reported the matter, however, to the Sublime Porte, merely stating that some Armenians had attacked the house of the Bishop and tried to assault him; but Munir Pasha telegraphed a full account to his superior officer at Erzinghian, who forwarded it to the Seraskier.

His Majesty the Sultan then telegraphed to Hassan Pasha requiring an explanation of the difference of the two accounts; and the latter asked for a copy of the Commandant's telegram, which he refused to give. Hassan Pasha managed, however, to obtain a copy of the military cypher, and seeing that it was impossible to conceal the truth, sent an answer to the Sublime Porte to the effect that Munir Pasha's account was correct, but that he himself had not wished to give importance to the affair, and therefore he had not sent a full account previously.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 69.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 27.)

(No. 534.)

*Therapia, September* 17, 1883.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 456 of the 28th July last, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres to Colonel Everett, reporting the result of his inquiries into the attack on American missionaries near Bitlis in June 1882. In connection with this subject, I have the honour to forward a copy of a despatch from Colonel Everett on the unsatisfactory condition of the missionaries and Protestants at Bitlis, which Report, together with that from Mr. Eyres, I have communicated unofficially to General Wallace, United States' Minister to the Sublime Porte.

General Wallace has been good enough to address a letter to me on the subject, of which the inclosed is a copy, and to which I have returned a suitable reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 3.)

*Van, August* 16, 1883.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I made inquiries concerning the attack on the American missionaries near Bitlis. My powers of action were much limited by my inability to apply to the authorities for assistance, but I was enabled to obtain the names of three out of the four men who were implicated.

The Christian inhabitants of the village of Kahian (Khavenir), where Moussa Bey, son of Mirza Bey, a powerful Kurdish Chieftain, resides, asserted that Dr. Raynolds' idea as to the cause of the outrage was perfectly correct, that is, that Moussa Bey considered his honour insulted by the cool reception afforded him by the two missionaries, though they were entirely ignorant at first of his personality. He determined to revenge himself, and carried out his determination in the manner already described by Dr. Raynolds. There were, however, four men engaged in the affair, one being in reserve in the bushes in case he was required. Moussa Bey in person was the leader, but he was so far disguised that he wore the common Kurdish costume of black "aba," instead of the dress of a Bey. He it was who used the sword and attacked Dr. Raynolds. There were besides a servant of his own village Kahian, name unknown, and two Kurds from the village of Marnik, by name Sherof Oghlou Osman and Iskian Oghlou Hassan.

The Governor-General of Bitlis, on hearing of the outrage, sent zaptiehs to Mirza Bey with orders to arrest the guilty persons. Mirza Bey went with the zaptiehs to the village of Avzout, and pointed out four Kurds of another tribe as the guilty men. The zaptiehs arrested them, and remained there the night, during which some person threw a bundle into their room containing most of the stolen property, though there are still some articles of value missing. This was done probably in order to throw the police off the scent as to what village the real malefactors belonged to.

Dr. Raynolds and Mr. Knapp were of course unable to identify any of the four men arrested, but they both agreed that one man much resembled the leader of the band. This man is known to bear a peculiar likeness to Moussa Bey.

It seems altogether doubtful whether either of the missionaries could identify the right men, as the whole affair passed so quickly, but Mr. Knapp thinks he would be able to identify the leader of the band. It would naturally be impossible to expect any of my informants or of the villagers to give evidence in Court, as they would most certainly lose their lives if they had the temerity to adopt such a course. Therefore, at first sight it would seem difficult to obtain a conviction if the arrests were made; but even supposing Moussa Bey were not one of the actual perpetrators of the deed, it is unquestionable that both he and his father are responsible for all deeds of violence done in their district. It is a saying amongst the people, that a bird cannot fly without their knowledge; and this Moussa Bey is a notorious murderer and robber.

If the Turkish authorities at Bitlis were ordered to arrest these two Beys the reply would probably be that they had sent zaptiehs, but that the men had fled. Still, it is perfectly certain that if they wish to arrest them they have the power.

With regard to the question of escort, Dr. Raynolds did not ask for a zaptieh to accompany him on his journey, but before starting he inquired of the Governor-General of Bitlis if there was any danger on the road, and the answer was that the country was in a state of perfect security. Dr. Raynolds, therefore, did not think it necessary to ask for any escort.

I have only to add that the punishment of Moussa Bey would have a most salutary effect on the Kurds in the country round Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 33.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, August* 31, 1883.

EXTRACTS which I have read from letters received by the missionaries here from Mr. Knapp, their colleague at Bitlis, together with the contents of a letter which I myself have received from him, seem to indicate that his position, as well as that of the Protestant community at Bitlis, is very far from satisfactory. It appears that both he and the lady teacher stationed there are frequently stoned and insulted, and there is some probability of the inhabitants injuring some buildings which are being erected by the Protestants under Firmans which they have lately received from the Porte.

Mr. Knapp attributes the present attitude of the people to the absence of any steps to obtain satisfaction for the outrage of June last. I have no doubt that this supposition is, in part, correct.

I should therefore recommend, with a view to prevent further outrage and possible disorders, that the American Minister be advised of the desirability of moving in the matter; and if his Government takes any interest in the buildings which are now being erected at Bitlis, of the expediency of procuring at an early date a special order to the Vali directing him to see that no damage is done to them.

I am expecting, by every mail, an official Report on the subject of the June outrage from Mr. Eyres; in the meantime, I am able to inform you that the affair was premeditated, and that Moussa Bey, the son of Mirza Bey, is the man who cut down Dr. Raynolds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. EVERETT.

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Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

*General Wallace to Mr. Wyndham.*

*United States' Legation, Constantinople,*
My dear Mr. Wyndham, *September* 12, 1883.

I BEG to return the papers received from you, being the despatches from Messrs. Everett and Eyres relative to the American missionaries, Rev. Mr. Knapp and Dr. Raynolds, resident near Bitlis. They may prove of great service in the effort I am making to bring the Kurds engaged in the robbery of those gentlemen to justice.

Permit me to add that my note would be very incomplete if I failed to avail myself of the opportunity to convey to you an official message with which I am intrusted by the Honourable Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Frelinghuysen. Information of the interest you so kindly manifested in the affair of the unfortunate American gentlemen just named, and of the orders you were pleased to send to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum in their behalf, having been communicated to the Honourable Secretary, he instructed me to give you the thanks of the Department for the courteous assistance, and I find great satisfaction in performing the very agreeable duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEWIS WALLACE.

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No. 70.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September 27.)*

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September* 18, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres and Colonel Everett, relating the circumstances attending the appropriation by some Circassians of a village called Simo, the property of a Protestant named Migerditch Agha. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Van, August* 15, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived at my post here on the 2nd instant.

In passing through the district of Khinous I had an opportunity of investigating more fully a matter of which I had already become cognizant while at Erzeroum.

A Protestant, named Migerditch Agha, had bought a village of the name of Simo, lying on the border of Boulanyk Plain, which had been totally depopulated and ruined. He disbursed in all the sum of 800 liras for the lands, houses, and for cattle and beasts of burden which he bought for farming purposes. The title-deeds are perfectly in order.

In spite of this, however, about four months ago the village was suddenly invaded by a band of Circassians, who drove the inhabitants brought together by Migerditch Agha out of their houses, and settled themselves there in their stead.

The Circassians at once proceeded to kill such cattle as they required for their use, and to reap the produce of the fields sown at the expense of Migerditch Agha.

Application was at once made to the Government authorities at Khinous and at Erzeroum, but with little effect. The Kaïmakam of Khinous sent a captain of cavalry to the village to examine the state of affairs, and it is reported that he was bribed to make representations favourable to the Circassian usurpers.

On receiving intelligence of the matter at Erzeroum, I urged the Mutessarif Ali Effendi to take the necessary measures to reinstate the rightful owners in possession of the village. Ali Effendi assured me that he was doing all he could to induce the Circassians to depart quietly, but that, if he failed by peaceable measures, he would not hesitate to use force. These assurances he repeated on various subsequent occasions, and finally, on my taking leave of him just before my departure from Erzeroum, he declared that the Kaïmakam of Khinous was in fault, and nothing could be done till he was removed, and accordingly he had brought about his dismissal, and he would leave Khinous immediately.

On reaching Khinous I found that the Kaïmakam was really about to be dismissed; but Christians and Mussulmans both united in his praise, saying that he was much better than the general run of Turkish officials, and that if his hands had not been shackled by the authorities at Erzeroum he would long before have settled the question of Simo.

I was also told that there was a certain Said Effendi, treasurer of the Khinous district, who was a creature of the Mutessarif Ali Effendi, and that he opposed the Kaïmakam on every occasion when he wished to take action against the Circassians, and supported the latter through thick and thin.

The plea of the Circassians was that Said Effendi had sold them the village and its surroundings, but as the title-deeds of the first sale were legally registered, this plea, if true, would evidently not hold water.

Thus it would appear that Ali Effendi, the Mutessarif, was simply playing false the whole time.

Meanwhile, Migerditch Agha is losing the returns of all the money he expended, and cannot even gather in his harvest, and he affirms that the Circassians are doing so much damage that the village will be in a worse condition when they leave it than it was when he first took it over.

Comment is needless; but this is only one instance out of many hundreds of the way in which Circassians, Kurds, and miscreants of every description are allowed, nay, more, encouraged, to dominate the country and rob and pillage at will.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 35.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, September 7, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to furnish you with further details on the affair of Simo, reported on by Mr. Eyres in his despatch No. 2 of the 15th August, copies of which were forwarded you by the last mail.

On the receipt of the Report, I sent privately to Ali Effendi to inform him that Mr. Eyres had mentioned in a despatch, copies of which had been forwarded to Constantinople, how very much disgusted he was at having found things so different from what had been represented to him here, and to ask him whether anything was being done in the matter. The Mutessarif replied that the Kaïmakam had been dismissed; that the Vakil, a certain Ragoub Effendi, was endeavouring to settle the matter; and that he should himself write strongly on the subject during the week, letting me know the result.

I have since seen the dismissed Kaïmakam, Yusuf Jemil Effendi. According to his story, it appears that about three years ago some Circassian refugees, numbering 105 souls, were assigned waste lands belonging to the Kurdish village of Torchounk, in the district of Chanous. These families were joined by others till their numbers swelled to about 300. Unable to get on with the Kurds, they appear at various times to have shown a desire of moving from the district, and it was also pointed out to them by the local authorities that they could not be allowed to remain in such large numbers, as the act was illegal. In the month of April of the present year they seized upon the village of Simo, together with the houses and lands appertaining thereto, which had been purchased by Mugguerditch Agha, a certain Parsee, and others, and they turned out the inhabitants, who were Christians. These people immediately petitioned the Kaïmakam, and zaptiehs were sent to inquire into the matter. The Circassians informed the zaptiehs that they should not pay any attention to the orders of the Government until they had fully established themselves in the village.

On the 21st April (o. s.) the Kaïmakam reported the matter to Erzeroum, and on the 27th April received a vague reply, neither offering assistance nor detailing instructions, but merely informing him that the Circassians were to be removed "according to the law" (a useful term very much in vogue among Turkish officials). However, the Circassians do not seem to have cared much for the law, and the Kaïmakam, finding persuasion of no avail, sent up to Erzeroum a second Report on the 3rd May (o. s.). In it he stated that he had warned the Circassians on three occasions that their conduct was illegal—firstly, through a Yuzbashy (Captain) of zaptiehs; secondly, through a certain Mahmoud Agha, member of the local Administrative Council (Idaré Medjliss); and, lastly, personally at Chanous, when the Chief, who had been summoned to his presence, declared their intention of remaining at Simo, which, he said, had been given them by Said Effendi.

He also reported that the numbers were still increasing, other families from a village called Hamza Sheikh having joined them, and, pointing out the trouble which their presence in such numbers would certainly cause to four or five Christian villages situated in the immediate neighbourhood, and their dangerous proximity to the salt-works of Kyrnize-Touzly, he again begged for aid and instructions. To this letter he received no answer whatever. On the 1st June (o. s.), having occasion to telegraph to the Mutessarif, he mentioned that the Circassians utterly refused to move, and that therefore force must be employed. In reply, he received a letter informing him that he was dismissed, and that Ragoub Effendi was appointed in his place. An accusation has also been brought against the Kaïmakam of having taken from the Circassians 60 lira as travelling expenses between Chanous and Simo. The charge is preferred by Mehemet Effendi, one of their Chiefs, who is now in Erzeroum for the purpose, and the case has been placed in the hands of M. Krikor Effendi Shabanian, Catholic member of the Administrative Council of the vilayet, for examination. The



Kaïmakam denies the charge altogether, and it seems to me that there is some reason for supposing that it has been fabricated for the sole purpose of getting rid of him.

The opinion held by the inhabitants, generally the best judges, of the conduct of Yusuf Djemil Effendi in this matter, is, as you are aware by the report of Mr. Eyres, highly favourable. After careful examination, I too have come to the conclusion that, provided he is able to clear himself of the above-mentioned charge, there are no grounds for his dismissal, which has been, I think, brought about through the agency of Said Effendi to suit the purposes of Ali Effendi, the Mutessarif.

The Kaïmakam himself does not for one moment believe that his dismissal has anything to do with the affair of Simo. It appears that there was a sum of about £ T. 6,000 owing by the Government to the inhabitants of Chanous for supplies furnished during the war. Of this sum about £ T. 4,000 has been shown in the accounts of the cazn as having been disbursed by the Treasury, whereas, in reality, the villagers do not appear to have received it, their receipts for the supplies furnished being still in their possession. Yusuf Djemil Effendi, according to his own account, exposed the affair, since when he has not been popular either with the other members of the Chanous Government or with the head-quarters, and he even believes that the Circassians were secretly encouraged to proceed to Simo in order to afford a pretext for his dismissal; it is not impossible.

I have not been able as yet to see Mehemet Effendi, the Circassian, who is in Erzeroum; but I understand that he was formerly in business with and a friend of Muggueditch Agha; that he made repeated offers to Muggueditch Agha for the village, promising to repay him whatever he had given for it, and as much as he had since expended on it, together with the interest. Muggueditch Agha, however, declined to come to an arrangement. In the spring of this year Mehemet Effendi was sent by the Government to collect the sheep-tax from the Djibranli Kurds, and in the meanwhile his people settled themselves at Simo, where also he went on his return. The Circassian, I am told, also declares that Muggueditch Aga does not possess the whole of the village lands, but only twelve fields, none of which have been touched by his people.

Thus the accounts are conflicting, but one or two points are, to my mind, conclusive:

1. That the Circassians illegally entered the village of Simo and turned out the Christian inhabitants.

2. That the Kaïmakam used every means in his power to induce the Circassians to leave, but that they defied him.

3. That the Government of Erzeroum have given no support whatever to the Kaïmakam, although fully informed as to the serious state of affairs.

These are facts which are incontestable. The treatment of the Kaïmakam appears to me at present to be most unjust, and the conduct of both the Vali and the Mutessarif, in allowing nearly five months to elapse without taking any steps to eject the Circassians, is so disgraceful as to be sufficient to justify their dismissal. In the meantime, although the Acting Kaïmakam, Ragoub Effendi, who by the way is a brother of the Mutessarif's Private Secretary, has been forty-five days at his post, the Circassians remain at Simo.

At the same time I have been given to understand that, owing to my representations here, some exertions are being made in the matter, but I am not acquainted with their nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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No. 71.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.*—(*Received September 27.*)

(No. 539.) *Therapia, September 18, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 520 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres to Colonel Everett, reporting the attack on the Vali of Hakkiari by Kurds, from which his Excellency escaped with difficulty with his life. This incident is very good evidence of the lawless condition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure in No. 71.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 5.)

Sir, *Van, September* 5, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to state that a few days ago the Vali of Hakkiari, Hilmi Pasha, while on a tour through his vilayet, reached the Sandjak of Amadié. Here his Excellency caused various of the principal Kurds in the district to be arrested, in order, it is supposed, to obtain bribes from them, since he is notoriously avaricious. The money not being forthcoming quick enough, Hilmi Pasha ordered that the prisoners should be conveyed to Bashkaleh. While they were on the road a powerful Kurdish tribe of the name of Pinianish, hearing of what had taken place, attacked the convoy, released the prisoners, and the Governor-General with difficulty escaped with his life. His Excellency fled to the Nestorian district of Tiari, and demanded protection from one of the Nestorian Meliks or Chieftains. The Melik provided an escort of 200 riflemen as far as Bashkaleh. Hilmi Pasha then telegraphed to Van, and the Military Commandant, Munir Pasha, left for Bashkaleh on the 2nd instant. Since his departure a battalion of infantry has received orders to proceed thither also.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 72.

*Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received September* 27.)

(No. 540.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 18, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 374 of the 15th June last, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Dragoman Marinich, stating that Djemil Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo, denies categorically the charges brought against him, and the officials of the vilayet in regard to their treatment of the Armenians, and to the language adopted by them in respect to that community.

I have forwarded a copy of the Memorandum to Mr. Consul Henderson, and have at the same time asked him to report whether the Vali and his officials have moderated their tone and attitude towards the Armenian inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

*Memorandum.*

L'AMBASSADE Royale avait communiqué au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères l'extrait des Rapports reçus du Consul de Sa Majesté à Alep en date du 21 Mai dernier, concernant les mauvais traitements infligés par les autorités Ottomanes aux Arméniens du Caïmacanlik de Gissar Shagh ainsi que la grande sévérité déployée par le Vali envers l'élément Arménien.

Cette communication officieuse de l'Ambassade ayant été transmise au Ministère de l'Intérieur avec prière de faire les recommandations voulues à Djémil Pacha, ce Département vient de faire parvenir au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères le Rapport responsif du Vali d'Alep, dans lequel son Excellence s'empresse de démentir point par point toutes les plaintes formulées contre lui et les fonctionnaires de son vilayet.

*Le* 12 *Septembre,* 1883.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

*Extract of Reports received by Her Majesty's Embassy.*

J'AVAIS eu l'honneur de rapporter les mauvais traitements que les autorités Ottomanes ont infligés aux Arméniens du Caïmacanlik de Gisser Shagh. Durant ces deux dernières années le Vali d'Alep a laissé tranquilles ces pauvres habitants, mais



tout dernièrement les mauvais traitements ont recommencé avec plus de sévérité que par le passé.

Le Cathalicos de Sis n'a pas pu décider le Gouverneur-Général à apporter un adoucissement à la sévérité inflexible et systématique avec laquelle le Vali poursuit les Arméniens du village de Kineya.

Le Catholicos a signalé l'appui et l'encouragement donnés par le Gouverneur-Général à sept ou huit prosélytes qui, les armes à la main, ont cerné l'église situé à Kueya et appartenant à la communauté Arménienne, fait feu et chassé les Arméniens qui la gardaient. Ils ont versé par terre les huiles saintes contenues dans les vases et se sont conduits d'une façon violente et inconvenante.

Arrêtés et condamnés par les autorités locales, ces coupables ont été amenés à Alep, où le Gouverneur-Général les a fait relâcher.

Il importe de faire donner des ordres par la Sublime Porte au Vali d'Alep lui enjoignant de modérer sa conduite et d'agir d'une façon moins malveillante envers les pauvres habitants en question.

Je crois devoir ajouter que les Tribunaux d'Alep sont complètement sous l'influence du Vali et que l'on ne saurait attendre qu'un Tribunal rende une sentence contraire aux désirs de Djémil Pacha.

L'élément Arménien a été soigneusement éliminé des Tribunaux quoique le 10 pour cent de la population Chrétienne appartienne à cette communauté.

La conduite du Vali a exaspéré à tel point les Arméniens que l'Évêque de Lattaquie, sous la juridiction duquel est placé le village de Kueya, se rend à Constantinople lui-même pour tâcher d'obtenir quelque aide et protection pour ses malheureuses ouailles.

Il importe d'ajouter que dans le courant d'un entretien le Vali m'a dit qu'il considérait les Arméniens comme les Bulgares de l'Asie-Mineure, tout en faisant remarquer que les Bulgares doivent avoir retenu un souvenir ineffaçable de son administration à Adrianople (vers la fin de la guerre Russo-Turque), et qu'il souhaitait vivement qu'une occasion se présentât pour enlever aux Arméniens toute idée de réformes et d'agitation pour l'amélioration de leur sort.

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No. 73.

*Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October* 1.)

(No. 270. Secret.)

My Lord, *Berlin, September* 28, 1883.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 244, Secret, of the 14th June last while residing in London on leave of absence, so that I was unable to communicate personally, as directed therein, the substance of your Lordship's views on the Armenian question to Prince Bismarck, who had himself left Berlin for Kissingen, and was not expected to return to Berlin before Christmas.

Under these circumstances I obtained your Lordship's sanction to impart the substance of your Lordship's instructions to Count Herbert Bismarck for private communication to his father, the German Chancellor.

I did so on the 9th July last, and Count Herbert promised to explain the matter to Prince Bismarck, whom he was about to join at Kissingen.

I think it as well to place these dates on record in case they should be required for future reference.

Count Herbert told me that he had also made known to his Chief, Count Münster, the nature of my communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

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No. 74.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October* 24.)

(No. 571.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch received from Mr. Consul Biliotti, containing information of interest with regard to the Sandjak of Kara-hissar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 74.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 46.)

*Ordoo, September* 28, 1883.

Sir,

THE Sandjak of Kara-hissar, which forms the north-eastern corner of the Vilayet of Sivas, consists of five cazas, viz.: Kara-hissar proper, Elvedjiré, Sousheheri, Melit, and Keuile-hissar, comprising together about 600 villages.

Judging by the available number of labourers, 58,000, for work on roads, I reckon the population in average about 160,000 souls, only one quarter of whom are Christians, that is 30,000 Armenians, and 10,000 Greeks.

Of the latter, about 1,000 emigrated two years since to Medjingherd, within the new Russian boundary. Letters lately received from them complain of their condition, and state their intention to return to their native country if they can find the means to do so.

Only about 150 families of Laz emigrants have settled in this sandjak.

Kara-hissar, the chief town, which gives the name to the district, is the residence of a Mutessarif. It is situated on a plateau at the foot of a very steep cliff, on the top of which are the remains of a fortress of the Byzantine period, from which Kara-hissar (Black Fortress) takes its name.

Its population consists of about 8,000 Mussulmans, 2,500 Armenians, and 500 Greeks; total, 11,000.

The general appearance of the town conveys the idea of little prosperity, and the charred remains of about 100 houses destroyed by fire in the course of the present year add to the usual gloomy aspect of the place.

The quarter of the town which was burnt down being that inhabited by the poorer classes, subscriptions were raised on their behalf, to which I am glad to report that the Asia Minor Mining Company contributed 100*l.*

Last year, owing to the failure of crops, the inhabitants of the whole district greatly suffered from scarcity of provisions. The Government had to import cereals from other districts in order to avert famine.

As the available grain for sowing last season was very scarce, and as the little which was sown has not yielded abundantly, the populations are threatened with the same calamity during the coming winter. And there is no doubt that this will be the case if crops in general have not better succeeded than the few which I have had occasion to see on my way.

The inhabitants in general have a sickly appearance, and would have been unable to construct the new road had it not been for the bread furnished to them by the Asia Minor Mining Company.

Even the beasts of burden seem to have much suffered from the general scarcity; they were too weak to convey my party to the sea-shore, so much so that after two hours' ride two mules dropped down, and had to be sent back. I therefore had to change mules at every available place, but as I neared the limits of the district of Ordoo, it was with great difficulty that I could persuade muleteers to convoy me further down, so great is their fear of the Lazes.

There is certainly danger, but my impression is that it is greatly exaggerated by the inhabitants, who seem to be terror-stricken at the sight of Lazes.

About a month ago two brigands of this race, one of whom a notorious leader named Yanek Ahmed, levied black-mail to the amount of 50*l.* on 400 or 500 individuals who were attending the weekly bazaar of Kara-Iskelessi, near Fatza.

I travelled all over the country accompanied only by a zaptieh, and never made a bad encounter.

However, at Teham-bachi, the summer residence of the inhabitants of Ordoo, the gendarme who hitherto had accompanied me was exchanged against a Laz zaptieh, who insisted on our never being far from our luggage, from fear it should be carried off, and took great precautions in certain suspect spots inhabited by his country men.

Most of the inhabitants had departed from Teham-bachi to Ordoo the very day of my arrival, and met with no accident. They had, it is true, a strong escort, but last year, under similar circumstances, a Mussulman and an Armenian were assassinated by Lazes on this road. A short time ago the brother of the murdered Mussulman shot dead the assassin of his brother, whom he met on the highway near Fatza, when he was himself killed by another Laz.

A fortnight ago the brigand Yanek Ahmed, of whom I have already spoken, was shot through the body by two Turks of Rizeh, whom he attempted to rob, and one of



whom was killed in his turn. Yanek being too seriously wounded to walk was carried to his village by his third follower, but all the efforts of the authorities to discover his hiding-place have proved fruitless.

The other serious cases of brigandage which came to my knowledge concern the notorious Kodjogloo.

Three weeks since he sent a messenger to levy 50*l.* from a certain Hadji Abeddin, a well-to-do Mussulman at Iskessoor, in the district of Kara-hissar. As he refused to comply with his request, he went to his house during his absence, killed in cold blood his son, 20 years of age, and carried off 200*l.*

When I was at Kara-hissar on the 21st instant it was with great difficulty that the authorities could give me a zaptieh to accompany me, all the police force from that district, as well as from Tokat and the neighbouring cazas of Trebizond, having been sent after Kodjogloo.

He was supposed, at the time, to be surrounded by the gendarmerie near Niksar, and sure to be captured; but on my arrival in this caza I learnt that he had made good his escape and perpetrated other crimes.

At about the time when he was supposed to be surrounded by the police force, he was plundering a house at Oolook, a village twelve hours distant from Unieh, violating the women in it, killing three men and two children.

Only two days ago he attacked, in the district of Fatza, two Mussulman families emigrating from Kars, who, in defending themselves, cut off the hand of one of his followers. Two children, 8 or 10 years old, of the emigrants, who could not follow their parents in their flight, were cut to pieces by him as an act of revenge.

The authorities are very active against Kodjogloo's band, which consists of only seven men; but owing to the inadequate number of the zaptiehs, the brigands escape detection and capture. They throw the police out of their track by forced marches and counter-marches, in a mountainous country, where pursuit is very difficult for a small body of men.

As the Porte continued to refuse to increase the police force, Sirri Pasha has succeeded in inducing the inhabitants of Ordoo, Fatza, Thermé, Unieh, and Teham-chamba to enrol, at their own expense, twenty zaptiehs, each to be placed under the orders of the Major of Gendarmerie at Samsoon. With this additional force of 100 men, the Vali hopes to be able to cope with the bands of brigands who especially infest the forementioned five cazas, and are beginning to make incursions in the district of Kara-hissar.

On my way from Teham-bachi to the town I spent a night in the house of Felekzadé Suleyman Bey, of Ooloobeg, the only one against whom his tenants made no complaint when I visited Ordoo in 1880. He informed me that those of his class, himself included, are in great dread, the Laz brigands having expressed the intention to exterminate the Beys and the Agas, in order to possess themselves of their extensive landed property. However, nothing has hitherto taken place to give a semblance of truth to this assertion.

Tchuruksooli Ali Pasha, who happened to be at Ordoo, stated to me that Kodjogloo is a native of Adjara, and that his father being still in his native country, the nefarious acts perpetrated by this brigand may be at the instigation of Russia.

But the natives doubt this version, and rather consider him responsible for what takes place, inasmuch as he could, they believe, prevent the evil if he wished to do so.

In support of their assertion they state that, since last year, natives, when robbed by Lazes, instead of applying for redress to the local authorities, submit their claims to Tchuruksooli Ali Pasha, and that on more than one occasion he caused the stolen property to be returned, a proof, they state, of his influence on his countrymen even when they are addicted to brigandage.

Under these circumstances the inhabitants of Ordoo persist in thinking that his appointment as Mutessarif in that district is the only means to restore tranquillity in their district and in the neighbouring ones.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 75.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 24.)*

(No. 572.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 13, 1883.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch No. 552 of the 22nd ultimo, and to the latter part of Mr. Consul Biliotti's despatch No. 46, inclosed in my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch from Mr. Biliotti on the subject of the desire of the inhabitants of Ordoo for the appointment of Tehuruksooli Pasha as their Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 75.

*Consul Biliotti to Mr. Wyndham.*

(No. 47.)
Sir, *Ordoo, September 28, 1883.*

WITH reference to my despatch to you No. 40 of the 12th instant, and to the latter part of my No. 46 of this day, I have the honour to acquaint you that in begging for the appointment of Tehuruksooli Ali Pasha as Mutessarif, the inhabitants of Ordoo, besides the hope of thereby obtaining the restoration of tranquillity, have also another object in view.

They expect that, on the completion of the road now in construction, Ordoo, as the nearest point from the Black Sea to Sivas, will acquire great importance, and consider that the erection of the present Kaïmakamlik into a Mutessarillik will much tend to this end.

It being Ali Pasha's strongest wish to be nominated to the post, the inhabitants, in proposing his appointment, enlist in their favour his influence at Constantinople, which they consider to be paramount.

However, they are alive to the disadvantage of their having as Governor a Laz Pasha, when the Laz element takes the upper hand in their district, but think that this drawback is more than compensated by the great advantages, one of them being an increased police force which will accrue to them by their caza being erected into a sandjak.

In fact, I believe that it is only in order to facilitate the obtension of this object that they bring forward Ali Pasha's candidature, for it was pointed out to me that he could not live for ever, and that the Mutessarillk, with the advantages connected therewith, would remain to them.

In the Petition which the inhabitants presented to the Vali they suggested that the projected sandjak should include the Cazas of Ordoo, Fatza, and Melet, which last forms part of the Vilayet of Sivas, but whose inhabitants are willing to be joined to Ordoo, their interests being identical.

This arrangement would form a district with a population of 95,000, yielding to the Porte an annual revenue of 52,000*l.*

Sirri Pasha, who is still superintending the construction of the road at Samsoon, is said to be himself favourably disposed towards the erection of a Mutessarillik in that part of the coast, but not to have yet made up his mind as to whether it should be at Ordoo or at Kerassond.

Both these cazas, the latter united to that of Tireboli, might be granted this advantage, the more so that there appears to be a general impression among the populations that the only means to have an increased police force, and consequent security, is by obtaining the appointment of Mutessarifs in the room of Kaimakams, and of Kaimakams in that of Mudirs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 76.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 370.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 26, 1883.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 565, Secret, of the 6th instant, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve, for the reasons therein given, your decision not to press the question of Armenian reforms upon the Sultan at your first interview with His Majesty on the 4th instant.

Her Majesty's Government have perfect confidence in your Excellency's judgment and discretion as to taking the most judicious steps at the proper moment in order to secure, under difficult circumstances, an object which they have so much at heart.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 77.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 585.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 23, 1883.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch to your Lordship No. 540 of the 18th ultimo, and to previous correspondence, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Henderson, reporting that he recently brought under the notice of the Papal Delegate the reported misconduct of the Roman Catholic priests at Gissor Shoghl towards the Armenians in that district.

Your Lordship will perceive that on the representations of Mr. Henderson the Papal Delegate visited the district in person, and finding the reports in question correct, caused the Roman Catholic priests to be removed, and expressed to the Armenian Bishop and his community his regret at the unprovoked outrages which had been perpetrated upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 77.

*Consul Henderson to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, September 30, 1883.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I took advantage of the Papal Delegate's presence at Aleppo last month to bring under his notice the misconduct of the Roman Catholic priests at Gissor Shoghl towards the Armenians in that district. He said that the reports seemed so incredible that he would visit the district himself, and if he found them correct he would remove the Roman Catholic priests.

A few days ago I received letters acquainting me that the Delegate had found the reports of the illtreatment of the Armenians to be correct; that he had removed the Roman Catholic priests and had expressed to the Armenian Bishop and community his regret at the unprovoked outrages perpetrated on them. It gives me much pleasure to be able to report such straightforward conduct on the part of a high Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, and the confirmation of the reports which have reached Her Majesty's Embassy by his Grandeur's action in this matter relieves me from the necessity of making any comments on Djemil Pasha's categorical denial of the charges brought against him and the provincial officials.

I am unable to report that I have observed any change in his Excellency's conduct. His influence with the Sultan, through his father, Namyk Pasha, is so great that any instructions the Grand Vizier or other Ministers venture to give him are treated with indifference and contempt, and generally produce the very result they are intended to avert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

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No. 78.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 589.) *Therapia, October 24, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres to Colonel Everett, reporting on the present condition of the Vilayet of Hekkiari.

In the concluding paragraph of this despatch Mr. Eyres states that the Nestorians and Armenians of Hekkiari, in despair of obtaining from their own Government adequate protection for their lives and property against the Kurds, have drawn up a Mazbata addressed to the Russian Government declaring their resolution to adopt the Orthodox religion.

I have thought it my duty to call the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to this state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 78.

*Vice-Consul Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 11.) *Van, October 8, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Munir Pasha, Commandant at Van, has just returned from his tour in Hekkiari, whither I reported that he had gone in my despatch of the 5th ultimo.

Munir Pasha does not seem to have done anything with reference to the affair between the Pinianish tribe and the Vali, but he inspected the various military centres at Yulamerik, Bashkaleh, Gover, and Serai, and, as a result of his inspection, several battalions are to be transferred from Hekkiari and others brought in their place. The Pasha also took the opportunity of investigating a matter that had occurred in the Kaimakamlik of Mahmoudieh. Fourteen or fifteen soldiers quarrelled with some Kurds of the Milanli tribe, and the Kurds being the more numerous, beat the soldiers. The Chief of the Milanli tribe, Mehmed Agha, was then arrested, whereon the tribe attacked the escort of the prisoner, released the Chief, and, in the struggle, a soldier was killed.

Hilmi Pasha has not yet left Bashkaleh as he is dangerously ill, and not expected to recover. In the meanwhile anarchy prevails throughout the vilayet. No measures are taken to protect the Christians against the Kurds, who prey upon them, and, in consequence, the Christians (Nestorians and Armenians) have drawn up a Mazbata, to be sent to the Russian Government, declaring their resolution to embrace the faith of the Orthodox Greek Church in order to obtain protection from the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 79.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 591.) *Therapia, October 26, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Eyres to Colonel Everett, which gives an account of the deplorable condition of the Vilayet of Bitlis, and incloses a translation of a telegram, containing a list of their complaints, which a number of the chief inhabitants attempted to forward to the Sublime Porte.

This telegram, as your Lordship will perceive, was intercepted and stopped by the Vali, but as its contents are fully corroborated by Mr. Eyres and others who have had opportunities of judging on the state of affairs in the vilayet, I have thought it right to make a strong representation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and have furnished his Highness with a list of such of the complaints in question as could be reduced to fact.



The United States' Minister, who has received similar accounts from Bitlis, has also spoken seriously to Aarifi Pasha on this subject, and has endeavoured, in conjunction with me, to obtain some amelioration in the condition of the inhabitants, and secure, if possible, the dismissal of the Vali, whose misgovernment and corruption are notorious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, I have received an unofficial intimation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs that an official recommendation has been submitted to the Sultan by His Majesty's Ministers for the dismissal both of the Vali of Bitlis and of the Vali of Van, of whose conduct great complaints have also been made. I shall report to your Lordship as soon as the Iradé sanctioning the Ministerial recommendations is issued by the Sultan.

D.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

*Vice-Consul Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 6.) *Van, September 15, 1883.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a telegram complaining of the utter corruption and incapacity of the authorities of Bitlis, which the inhabitants of that place of all denominations attempted to send to the Sublime Porte.

The Governor-General Aarif Pasha, however, refused to permit the transmission of the telegram, upon which the people addressed a Mazbata to the Sublime Porte and sent it by post. Aarif Pasha hearing that there was such a document in the mail bag stopped the post which had already left Bitlis and extracted the obnoxious Petition.

From my own observation I can support most of the statements made in the telegram, and am only astonished at the comparatively moderate tone of the complaints. For the condition of Bitlis Vilayet is such that, if some attempt is not made to ameliorate it, life will become absolutely impossible for the peaceable portion of the population. No pretence is made to mete out justice, or to check or punish depredators of all descriptions, who are ruining trade and impoverishing still further the already half-ruined peasantry. The Governor-General entirely neglects his duties and does not even endeavour to throw a veil over his proceedings. His efforts are limited to the collection of bribes, and for this purpose he is continually absent from his seat of Government, making tours in his province, whence he returns laden with spoil. It is even said that his Excellency encourages the Turks to attack and rob the Christians, and whether this be true or not, it is certainly a fact that directly he returns to Bitlis the nightly burglaries double in number and murders are of daily occurrence.

The American missionaries are insulted in the streets, they are continually harassed by claims on their property, and if their lives are not in actual danger, still their position is most precarious.

Two weeks ago a numerous body of Circassians came to the Raghva, a tableland two hours north of Bitlis, and defied the local authorities, declaring that no man should leave Bitlis on that side alive. It is rumoured here that some were arrested and imprisoned, but that the whole body attacked the town, burst open the prison and released their comrades. I have not as yet been able to verify these reports.

In conclusion, I venture most earnestly to request you, Sir, to endeavour to obtain the dismissal of the Governor-General Aarif Pasha, to whom the desperate condition of the province is due. The complaints I hear from day to day are most deplorable. The Vilayet of Van is not better governed than most other provinces in Turkey, but the inhabitants of those districts which have been subtracted from Van Vilayet and placed under the control of the Bitlis Government do nothing but bewail their unhappy lot and hope for the day when they shall be restored to their former relatively prosperous condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

*Telegram from the Inhabitants of Bitlis to the Sultan and the Sublime Porte.*

(Translation.)

THE reorganization of the Vilayet of Bitlis and the amelioration of our condition are two of the most necessary of the reforms of Kurdistan.

May God preserve from danger the Sultan's Government, under whose authority we hope to live in peace and prosperity. But now we are entirely deprived of His Majesty's favour and the promised reforms.

The Government of our vilayet is utterly powerless, being even worse than when it was a Kaïmakamlik, and we are driven to despair because we see that the rights and interests of the Empire are neglected, therefore we are compelled to forward to the Supreme Government these complaints as the last remedy left to us:—

1. A large sum of money collected from the people for the construction of a new Government House has entirely disappeared.

2. During the late famine none of the subscriptions intrusted to the Local Government for distribution to the people were so distributed, while the provisions given by His Majesty the Sultan were sold at a high price, and though it was said that the proceeds were to be given to the poor, 5,000 or 6,000 piastres still remain in the hands of the Directors.

3. The principal cause of the infamous condition of the Local Government is that the Vali, the Defterdar, and his brother the Mutessarif of Sert, are leagued together, and they have nominated about twenty of their creatures to the best posts; consequently, no attention is paid to complaints, and the law is considered as non-existent.

4. Avediss Effendi, President of the Municipality, is under the protection of the above-mentioned personages, and continues to hold his post though his legal tenure of office has expired: 1,000 liras that have passed into his hands from the Treasury of the Municipality are unaccounted for, and yet the Vali refuses to dismiss him or inquire into his accounts.

5. During the last two years the number of murders and other crimes has enormously increased, particularly in the central district.

Two years ago Osman Bey, a notorious robber Chieftain, was appointed Kaïmakam of Shirwan. He is known to have assisted in the robbery of many merchants during his tenure of office, and there was a considerable deficit in his accounts. No notice, however, was taken of his actions by the Vali, and his death alone released his district from the scourge of his rule.

The Kurds and other marauders, encouraged by this state of affairs for the last two years, pillage and rob all travellers and merchants without let or hindrance. The roads are most dangerous, and the continual attacks of robbers on villages, and even some parts of Bitlis itself, have driven the inhabitants into utter despair, for there is no security for life or property. From day to day the situation grows worse and worse.

6. The Vali does not pay the slightest attention to the condition of the people, and is utterly negligent of his duties. The population of Bitlis was nearly ruined last year by the burning of the Bazaar, which entailed a loss of from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 piastres, yet no steps have hitherto been taken to rebuild the market.

7. The elections during the past three years have always been held in secret, and those with few votes have been preferred to those who had more. By these means the cousin of the Vali has been appointed Tithe Collector. Bribery is rife everywhere. Important posts are intrusted to persons notorious for their incapacity. There are many more charges which cannot be put forward in a telegram.

We have already given up all hope of security for life, honour, and property, and of our beloved country, since the Sublime Porte does not take into consideration the state of affairs in our vilayet. If matters remain in *statu quo*, and measures are not taken to ameliorate our condition, the country will before long be depopulated by the emigration which has already begun. We, therefore, Notables, Sheikhs, Ulemas, in the name of the whole population, make these statements, and await your answer.



No. 80.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.*—(*Received November 7.*)

(No. 592. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a Memorandum which has fallen into my hands, addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Sultan, recommending the adoption of a conciliatory policy towards Great Britain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 80.

*Memorandum submitted to His Majesty the Sultan by the Grand Vizier, dated* September 24 / October 10, 1883.

(Traduction.)

(Confidentiel.)

LE Gouvernement Impérial vivait toujours en bons termes avec les États qui entraient avec lui dans des relations d'amitié, et comme il observait ses engagements internationaux il avait acquis pour cela une réputation méritée. Cet état de choses ayant duré quelques siècles, le Gouvernement Impérial était parvenu à imposer à l'univers entier. L'État qui, le premier, avait montré de l'amitié à la Turquie, qui ne lui avait jamais manqué de fidélité, et qui ne lui a pas épargné son assistance en toute occasion, ce fut l'Angleterre, ainsi que j'ai l'honneur de le rapporter. En récompense de la bonne volonté constante de cette Puissance à notre égard, nous aurions dû la préférer à toutes les autres et nous aurions dû exécuter chacune de ses affaires sérieuses comme si c'était notre propre affaire.

L'Angleterre n'étant pas comme les autres États, et étant obligée de calquer sa politique d'après le courant de l'opinion publique, nous étions dans l'obligation de prendre soin des intérêts que ses sujets avaient avec nous.

Malheureusement, vu la discorde et la divergence d'opinion qui existaient chez les Ministres de l'Administration précédente, des décisions avaient été prises qui ont annihilé les finances de notre État, qui lui ont fait faire triste figure devant les étrangers, et qui lui ont fait perdre le crédit dont il jouissait en Europe. Les créanciers qui en avaient été lésés nous avaient pris en haine; les mauvaises mesures en question étaient rendues par eux un sujet de critique pour le monde et ils n'avaient pas cessé un instant d'annoncer qu'il n'y avait plus lieu de faire crédit à l'Empire Ottoman. Il était par conséquent naturel que notre Gouvernement en fut lésé dans la mesure de la véracité des proclamations de ces messieurs. La Russie qui guettait l'occasion pour réaliser ses vues secrètes n'a pas manqué d'en profiter de manière qu'après avoir préparé les instruments qui firent naître les événements formidables de la Roumélie, elles nous avait, sans cause, déclaré la guerre, et lorsqu'elle nous eût vaincu elle nous avait contraint de signer le Traité qui devait amener le déclin de l'Empire. Votre Majesté Impériale, dont l'existence est un remède efficace pour la religion et l'État, tout en acceptant ce Traité, n'a pas cessé un instant de faire tous ses efforts pour sauver de nouveau l'État et le régénérer. Et, en effet, elle avait réussi d'obtenir le Traité de Berlin, qui a mis à néant le susdit Traité. Il était naturel que le Gouvernement Anglais s'efforçât de rendre le Traité de Berlin plus avantageux pour la Turquie; mais le penchant alors bien connu du Prince de Bismarck pour la Russie, faisait agir celui-ci dans un sens contraire, c'est-à-dire, à rendre ce Traité aussi avantageux que possible pour cette dernière Puissance. En dehors de ce Traité deux lourdes charges avaient été imposées à la Turquie, qui entraînaient cependant des obligations analogues à leur importance. La première c'était l'abandon à l'Autriche de la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine; et la seconde, l'évacuation de l'Ile de Chypre. Plus l'abandon de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine était nuisible, plus celui de Chypre était avantageux dans l'avenir, si l'on observait les clauses du Traité qui s'y référait.

Le Gouvernement Anglais, avant de conclure le Traité en question, avait fait ses préparatifs et il était sur le point de déclarer la guerre, afin de sauver notre État de la destruction totale; mais par suite de la divulgation du secret de notre part qui a donné l'éveil à l'opinion publique en Angleterre, le Gouvernement Anglais n'avait pas pu prendre les armes dans la mesure qu'il était à désirer.

Suivant la portée du Traité de Chypre il est évident que l'Angleterre a l'obliga-

tion de protéger nos possessions de l'Asie-Mineure. Cependant, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre Majesté qu'il ne faut pas oublier la nécessité de réaliser les réformes sérieuses de l'Asie-Mineure, d'être toujours en bons termes avec le susdit Gouvernement, dont l'amitié nous est si avantageuse, de procéder à la solution des questions qui impliquent des intérêts divergents par la voie de conciliation, et de ne pas accepter à cet égard l'immixtion d'aucun autre État. La pluralité d'assentiments étrangers est nuisible au Gouvernement Impérial et il est nécessaire qu'il adopte une conduite politique uniforme. Par conséquent, tout autant que l'Angleterre n'abandonne pas son amitié éprouvée envers nous, il est évident que nous en pourrions obtenir de grands avantages.

Quant à l'amitié et aux relations de l'Allemagne, il est plus sage que le Gouvernement Impérial s'abstienne d'entrer dans ses alliances militaires et qu'il se borne à entretenir avec elle des relations d'amitié. Nous sommes d'opinion unanime, que Ghazy Ahmet Mouktar Pacha, qui a été chargé d'assister aux exercices militaires, se borne à l'expression d'assurances d'amitié soit à l'Empereur, soit à ses Ministres, et qu'il s'abstienne de toute autre communication. Nous avons l'honneur de soumettre ce qui précède à l'acceptation de votre Majesté et d'attendre ses ordres.

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No. 81.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville:—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 598.)
My Lord,

*Therapia, October* 27, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, reporting that a caravan on the Kara-hissar road has recently been attacked and robbed of 500*l.* by Laz brigands.

It appears, however, that active steps are now being taken to suppress brigandage, as twenty zaptiehs belonging to the new police force which has been levied for this service have arrived at Kerassond under the command of a capable and energetic officer, and have already been armed with Martini rifles and dispatched to Unieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 81.

*Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 53.)
My Lord,

*Kerassond, October* 19, 1883.

THREE days before my arrival here eight Laz brigands waylaid at a short distance from the limits of this vilayet, and on the old Kara-hissar road, which is the one still in use in that district, a caravan of twenty passengers, whom they despoiled of about 500*l.*

These brigands are supposed to have come over from Ordoo.

Five zaptiehs, the only available force at Kerassond, were immediately sent to their pursuit, but little or rather no hope is entertained of their being captured.

I have already informed Her Majesty's Embassy that Sirri Pasha was levying an additional police force of about 100 men to be paid by the inhabitants of the districts infested with brigands.

Twenty of these new zaptiehs having been recruited at Surmeneh came here in the same steamer on board of which I was myself a passenger. But they refused to proceed further unless being furnished, instead of Sniders, the only arm in the hands of the police, with Martini rifles, with which the brigands are provided.

Sirri Pasha obtained from the Commander of the 4th Army Corps these arms, which were this day handed to them, and they are to start at once for Unieh.

These twenty men are headed by a Sebouhogloo Yacoob Aga, a Binbachi of volunteers during the last war, who was often spoken of by the inhabitants of Hodoortchoor as an honest and capable man to protect them against the incursions of Itizeh brigands.

He having captured in former times several brigands, much is expected from him, but in case of need he will be placed under the orders of an officer of the police force.

The Mutessarif of Samsoon, who is at Unieh in order to adopt measures for the



extirpation of brigandage, has taken the precaution to pay off the Lazes incorporated in the gendarmerie.

No fresh cases of brigandage have occurred at Fatza and Unieh since those reported in my despatch No. 46 of the 28th September last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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No. 82.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville:—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 601. Confidential.)
My Lord,

*Constantinople, October* 29, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Colonel Everett, containing his observations upon the present attitude of the Armenians, as described by Mr. Eyres in his despatch No. 10 of the 2nd October, which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 578 of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 82.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 41. Confidential.)
My Lord,

*Erzeroum, October* 11, 1883.

I DO not think much comment is required on Mr. Eyre's despatch No. 10, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, copies of which were forwarded to your Excellency by the last mail.

There is nothing either novel or strange in the circumstances which he relates, but the despatch is valuable in showing us the changes which have taken place in the views of the Armenians of that province since the departure of Major Clayton.

The inclosure deserves some attention. Your Excellency will no doubt have observed that the tone of it is different to anything of this nature that has been received by us before. Though called a Petition it has more the character of a remonstrance, and indeed the language is in one or two places so strong that, were not the oppressions that these people are undergoing and their consequent desperate condition well known to me, I should be inclined to return it.

The concluding paragraph contains a threat which, if executed, might produce grave consequences. It may be interesting to consider what is the value of it.

Now I find on looking back through previous correspondence that, in the winter of 1879–80, Major Clayton informed Sir Henry Layard that he was convinced there would be a general appeal to Russia before the middle of the following summer. The summer of 1880 was passed however in comparative tranquillity. Again, in November 1880, I observe that Mr. Goschen received from the same officer an alarming telegram wherein it was stated that the Armenians were preparing for revolt, that the Czar, promising assistance, wished the movement to begin before the winter set in, and that though the rumour might not be correct, yet there were signs on all sides of something stirring. Still nothing did stir, and the only demonstration of a political character, that I know of, which has been made at Van since that epoch is that which occurred the other day, and was reported on by Mr. Eyres in his despatch of the 26th August, when the mob assaulted several of their countrymen who had presumed to declare that no reforms were needed.

I allude to these circumstances to show that the final paragraph need not be the occasion of undue anxiety. At the same time we must not conceal from ourselves the fact that for the last three or four years we have been playing with the feelings of a nation which, though remarkable for its patience, is gradually being educated to feel more acutely the sufferings which it endures. It may not be impossible, as Mr. Eyres remarks, that a new temper has sprung up among the people of Van, and that they may nerve themselves to commence a movement of a revolutionary character, especially if they believe they are able to obtain assistance from Russia sufficiently soon after its commencement to save them from the necessity of making too great a

sacrifice. It should not also be forgotten that they are quite strong enough to do so. The Armenians in the Van Vilayet alone form a tolerably compact mass, numbering at the lowest computation about 112,000 souls, against 105,000 Kurds and 21,000 Turks (Major Clayton to Major Trotter, 16th May, 1881), and it is not unlikely that many of the Kurdish tribes, who, as we have had reason lately to know, bear no great love to the Turkish Government, may side with the Christians.

While therefore this document, taken together with the remarks made by Mr. Eyres, does not to my mind give any fresh grounds for the supposition that, unless reforms are introduced this winter, there must be necessarily a revolt next year, it is certainly calculated to remind us that, however uninteresting or trouble-some the question may be to the Powers, the Armenians of Van have no intention of allowing it to drop, and that should no reform follow this last demand, they will place themselves at the orders of Russia, whenever that Power may feel disposed to ask for their services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.*

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No. 83.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 602.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 29, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch addressed to Colonel Everett by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres, reporting a financial crisis in the Vilayet of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 83.

*Vice-Consul Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Van, October 16, 1883.*

THE financial state of this vilayet has lately been the subject of much consideration among the authorities here. Since Hekkiari and Bitlis were made independent vilayets, the revenue has always fallen considerably below the expenditure. The salaries of all officials, except the Vali, the Mektoubdji, and the Defterdar, are greatly in arrear, some as much as eighteen months, and it is with great difficulty that the machinery of the Government is made to continue working.

The Vali consequently found himself obliged to telegraph to the Sublime Porte a few days ago to the effect that unless some pecuniary aid was afforded him he could not be responsible for the government of the vilayet. His Excellency received an answer that the Treasurers of Diarbekir, Erzeroum, Trebizond, and Bitlis Vilayets had been ordered to send him at once 40,000*l.*, whereupon he summoned various Armenian merchants, and explaining to them the condition of affairs, asked for an advance of 5,000*l.* till the money should be sent. The merchants said they could not advance money without security, and that the security they demanded was that they should first receive information that the sum required had been handed over to their agents in one of the above-mentioned vilayets. They also demanded 1 per cent interest. Hassan Pasha neither accepted nor refused, and at present the matter remains unsettled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 84.

*Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 31, 1883.*

M. HENGELMÜLLER has informed Count Kálnoky that your Lordship had spoken to him on the subject of the Armenian reforms, and his Excellency tells me that it is a question in which he does not intend to take any part.

In the first place it was one in which Austria had no direct interest, and in the second place he believed that no political good would be done by moving in it, which would only have the effect of irritating the Sultan, and this he had no inclination to do.

There was, moreover, in his opinion, some justification for the feelings with which the Sultan regarded any attempt to urge these reforms upon him, and while refusing to admit that any such place as Armenia existed, or could be defined, he had a right to point out that parts of what once was Armenia now belonged to Russia, and parts to Persia, and to ask why the Russian and Persian Governments should not be called upon as well as himself to carry out reforms where they were as much needed as in Turkey.

I reminded Count Kálnoky that a demand for the reforms was justified, not only by the Treaty of Berlin, but by the Cyprus Convention, by which the Sultan had pledged himself to Her Majesty's Government to carry them out.

His Excellency replied that he did not for a moment wish to imply that Her Majesty's Government were not perfectly entitled to call upon the Sultan to give effect to the promises he had made if they thought fit to do so, but as he believed it to be inexpedient, as well as useless, he should not be able to join in exerting any pressure upon Turkey in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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No. 85.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 384. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 13, 1883.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 578, Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres, together with a translation of an address presented to him by a deputation of Armenians, and signed by 2,500 Notables of that nationality.

Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's intention to call the serious attention of the Porte to the dangerous state of affairs indicated in Mr. Eyre's despatch, but I take this opportunity to say that Her Majesty's Government do not consider it advisable that Her Majesty's Consular Agents should receive deputations and Petitions from the subjects of the Power on whose territory they reside.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 86.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)*

(No. 608.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Consul Everett, reporting the plundering of an Armenian caravan near Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 86.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 45.)

My Lord, *Erzeroum, October 25, 1883.*

ABOUT a fortnight ago some fifty Armenians, natives of Bitlis and the vicinity, arrived here from Constantinople with the savings (amounting in some instances to over £ T. 100) which they had gathered together after several years of work.

They remained here about a week awaiting the formation of a caravan, and during their stay the keeper of the khan in which they lodged was visited more than once by a certain Mollah belonging to one of the mosques in this city, who appeared particularly anxious to know when his lodgers intended to start. They left on Sunday last for Bitlis.

The caravan consisted of eighty horses, of which fifty carried loads and the remainder passengers. Among the latter was a certain Sheikh from the neighbourhood of Sert, a Turkish Yuzbashi (Captain), the late Tax Collector of Agin, and several women. Among them, too, was the Mollah, who, chatting with the Armenians, asked them many questions about their Constantinople lives, their savings, &c. He did not however accompany them for any distance.

There are two roads from Erzeroum to Bitlis: one leads over the steep range of mountains known as the Palenteuken, on the lower spurs of which this city is built. The other follows an easier but more circuitous route through the upper portion of the plain of the Passin. The Armenians wished to proceed by this last, but the muleteer refusing the Palenteuken road was adopted.

On arriving at the top of the pass a number of motionless objects were observed in the neighbourhood of the road, lower down the side of the mountain on a level piece of pasture land known as Arab Duzu. On reaching them they were found to be men, on their way to Erzeroum from the salt-works in the district of Chanous, who, having fallen in with a band of robbers, had been securely bound, in order, it is supposed, to prevent their telling tales in Erzeroum. A few minutes afterwards the caravan was attacked by twenty-seven well-mounted Kurds, among whom was the Erzeroum Mollah, and all of whom were armed with Martini-Henry or Snider rifles.

Others, apparently posted as sentries, were stationed by twos and threes at different commanding points. The total number of the band has been variously estimated at from fifty to eighty horsemen.

The robbers then commenced to plunder the caravan. From the Armenians they took every farthing of their savings, and even tortured some of them to make sure they had got all there was to be had. The Sheikh was not molested nor were his goods touched. The robbers merely requested him to point out which was the merchandize belonging to Christians, but this it appears he was unable to do. From the Yuzbashi they took all his money and everything on his person that was of any value; from the *ci-devant* Tax Collector, jewels and money. Having completed their work and selected sixteen of the best horses, they retired. The amount of money, jewels, and goods stolen is estimated at £ T. 3,000.

The Armenians who have lost everything, and who, in place of going to their families with their hard-earned savings, are now in this city half naked, and without a piastre to buy themselves a morsel of bread, applied to the Vali for relief, but were turned away and recommended to seek it from their own nation.

The Mollah has been arrested and his house searched; in it were found some of the stolen articles. The Sheikh has also been examined, and would have been detained by the officers of justice but for the intervention of the Vali.

Moussa Pasha, the Commandant, is reported to be greatly irritated that so unfortunate a circumstance should have occurred at so short a distance (three hours) from a large garrison town, and I am told it is principally due to his remonstrances that any steps have been taken to apprehend the robbers.

The idea of the Government was to send "five zaptiehs" for this purpose, but Moussa Pasha having represented the absurdity of such a proceeding, succeeded in persuading the Vali to take more energetic measures, and I have been given to understand this morning that the cavalry quartered in Chanous have received orders to proceed in quest of them.

The circumstances I have recounted to your Excellency show that the Mollah and the chief muleteer are implicated in the affair, but it would be an error to suppose that either in them or in the brigands we see the principals. No very active punitory



measures can therefore be anticipated, and probably after a week or two the affair will be practically forgotten, except by the unfortunate sufferers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT,
*Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.*

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No. 87.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)*

(No. 609.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres to Colonel Everett, reporting the unjust treatment of Ohannes Vartabed, the Chief Armenian Ecclesiastic of Bashkaleh.

I have called the most serious attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the case of this personage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—Vartabed is an ecclesiastical title.

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Inclosure in No. 87.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Van, October 23, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the affair described in Major Clayton's despatches No. 15 of the 29th March and No. 17 of the 6th April, 1881.

Ohannes Vartabed, the Chief Armenian Ecclesiatic of Bashkaleh, who was arrested on a charge of murder for shooting in self-defence a robber who attacked him, and was afterwards released on bail pending the decision of the Court of Cassation with regard to his case, has been again imprisoned.

His first trial ended in his being found guilty utterly contrary to the evidence; but the Procureur-General, wishing to see justice done, attempted to quash the trial by referring an unimportant question of procedure to the Court of Cassation at Constantinople. Meanwhile, Ohannes Vartabed was released on bail. Some time afterwards came the decision of the Superior Court, which was to the effect that a new trial should be held in order to rectify the defective procedure. The Governor-General of Van did not make this decision known to any one, but kept it concealed for eleven months. After the disturbance, however, of the 6th July, described in my despatch No. 4 of the 26th August, it is supposed that the Vartabed angered Hassan Pasha by the energy he displayed in protecting the people concerned in the attack on the episcopal building, and also by his refusal to sign a paper setting forth that the ex-Patriarch Khrimian was engaged in revolutionary intrigues, and the consequence was, that his Excellency produced the sentence of the Court of Cassation, and a new trial was held at Bashkaleh.

By Turkish law, when a new trial is ordered by the Court of Cassation, it should be held before a different Court, but on this occasion two out of the three members of the Court were the same, and all three were deadly enemies of Ohannes Vartabed. The Procureur-General refrained from interfering, dreading the displeasure of the Governor-General. The documents of the former trial had mysteriously disappeared, notably the deposition of the man who was killed, which proved that the Vartabed acted in self-defence. Other papers were, however, manufactured, and the unfortunate man was condemned to five years' imprisonment. Both the Procureur-General and the Inspector of Justice refused to endorse so iniquitous a sentence, and have again referred the matter to the Court of Cassation. Instead of being released on bail, Ohannes Vartabed is, however, imprisoned in a filthy dungeon, where some twenty malefactors are crowded together in a vault of very small dimensions, and where the air is so foul that no man can live long in it. His imprisonment was brought about by the President of the Criminal Court, Hadji Mustapha Effendi, mentioned in Major Clayton's despatch No. 15. This man was dismissed his post, owing, I understand, to representations made by Major Clayton, but shortly after the departure of the latter he

was again reinstated. I am also told that the Vartabed is tortured and maltreated every night by Turks in the employ of Hadji Mustapha Effendi, but with respect to this I cannot entirely rely on my information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 88.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November* 14.)
(No. 610.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 10, 1883.

IN my despatch No. 565, Secret, of the 6th ultimo, recounting my interview with the Sultan, I called your Lordship's attention to the fact that I had not thought it opportune to touch upon the Armenian question, but I intimated that I by no means proposed to relax my efforts to induce the Porte to introduce into the administration of Eastern Anatolia those reforms which Her Majesty's Government have enjoined me to press on their attention whenever a favourable occasion for doing so should arise.

I am now sending to your Lordship by this mail some despatches from Colonel Everett and Mr. Eyres which tend to show that the condition of that part of the country is more deplorable than ever.

Amongst the incidents mentioned is one so indicative of the anarchy prevailing in the neighbourhood of Erzeroum that it affords me a good opportunity of again pressing the Porte on the general question. I have therefore sent a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I subjoin a copy, and which I trust may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

P.S.—The despatch from Colonel Everett to which I have alluded in the last paragraph of my *note verbale* to the Sublime Porte is his No. 41, Confidential, of the 11th ultimo, a copy of which I have already had the honour to forward to your Lordship.

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Inclosure in No. 88.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Aarifi Pasha.*

*Therapia, November* 6, 1883.

FOR a long time past this Embassy has thought it might render an essential service to the Porte by drawing its attention both by written and by verbal representations to the deplorable condition of the Local Administrations in Kurdistan and the eastern parts of Anatolia. These representations, unfortunately, have hitherto failed in commanding the attention they deserve. The facts stated have either been denied or explained away, and the responsible authorities have very seldom met with the condign punishment they have deserved. But notwithstanding these discouraging experiences, the Ambassador of the Queen still considers it his duty towards the Sovereign and the Government for whose difficulties and anxieties he feels so deep a sympathy, and in whose welfare his own Government is so much interested, to continue to signalize from time to time such facts as can scarcely fail eventually to make an impression upon the Imperial Ministers, and bring home to them the critical condition of affairs prevailing over so large an area of the Turkish Empire. He accordingly begs to transmit to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a statement of an event which, though it unfortunately can only be regarded as a specimen of what has been continually occurring, is so well authenticated and so atrocious as to require the immediate attention of the Central Executive.

About three weeks ago some fifty Armenians, returning from Constantinople to their homes with the hard-earned savings of many laborious years, arrived at Erzeroum. They remained some time in that town awaiting the formation of a caravan, and eventually left for Bitlis on the 21st October, the party consisting of eighty horses, of which fifty carried loads and the rest passengers, amongst whom were several women. A Mollah who had made frequent inquiries at Erzeroum as to the date of their departure, and



who now questioned them as to their circumstances, also rode with them part of the way. Although there are two roads to Bitlis, the muleteers refused to proceed by the easier route, and the road over the Palentenken Range was finally adopted. On their arrival at the top of the pass several motionless objects were observed near the road, which, on closer inspection, proved to be travellers on their way to Erzeroum, who had fallen in with a band of robbers and been securely bound in order to insure silence. Shortly afterwards the caravan was attacked by a body of well-mounted and well-armed Kurds, variously estimated at from fifty to eighty horsemen, amongst whom was the Mollah from Erzeroum. The Armenians were plundered of all they possessed, recourse being had to torture to insure the exaction of the last farthing in their possession. A Sheikh, who was with them, was not molested nor his goods touched, but a Yuzbashi and an ex-tax-collector were robbed of money and jewels, before the robbers retired carrying off with with them sixteen of the best horses. The plunder of the brigands is estimated at £ T. 3,000.

The destitute Armenians having, on their return to Erzeroum, applied to the Vali for relief, were told to seek it from their own nation.

The Mollah has been arrested, some of the stolen articles having been discovered in his house. The Sheikh was also examined, and would have been detained by the officers of justice but for the intervention of the Vali.

The Government proposed to send five zaptiehs to take the robbers, but Moussa Pasha, the Commandant, who is supposed to be greatly irritated at so unfortunate an occurrence, having remonstrated with the Vali against the absurdity of such a proceeding, a force of cavalry was dispatched in pursuit.

Comment upon the foregoing circumstances is scarcely necessary. It brings out in clear relief the state of anarchy into which these districts have been allowed to lapse, the incompetence and culpability of the local authorities, and the cruel inflictions thereby entailed upon the population at large.

When regard is had to the fact that the recent misfortunes which have overtaken the Turkish Empire have too often originated in local disturbances, into which the native population has been driven by misgovernment, the Porte must not be surprised if a friendly Power should desire to call its attention to analogous circumstances which may possibly prove pregnant with similar sinister consequences.

The British Ambassador is the more compelled to submit these considerations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in consequence of a despatch which he has received from Colonel Everett, in which that officer calls his attention to certain menacing indications which may, or may not, prove the prelude of disasters.

The substance of this despatch Lord Dufferin has instructed the First Dragoman of this Embassy to communicate confidentially to his Highness.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 89.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 385.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1883.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 585 of the 23rd ultimo, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, reporting that he had recently brought under the notice of the Papal Delegate the misconduct of the Roman Catholic priests at Gissor Shoghl towards the Armenians in that district.

I have to express my satisfaction at Mr. Henderson's representations, which resulted in the removal of the priests in question and the offer of an apology by the Papal Delegate to the Armenian Bishop and his community.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 90.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 386.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1883.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 589 of the 24th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Eyres reporting on the present

condition of the Vilayet of Hekkiari, and stating that you had called the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the state of affairs described by Mr. Eyres.

Your Excellency's proceedings in this matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 91.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 387.)
*Foreign Office, November 14, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 591 of the 26th ultimo, inclosing a copy of Mr. Eyres' despatch to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett of the 15th September, relative to the deplorable condition of the Vilayet of Bitlis, and informing me of the representations which you had made to the Porte on the subject.

Her Majesty's Government approve the action taken by your Excellency in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 92.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 398.)
*Foreign Office, November 20, 1883.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 610 of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of a *note verbale* which you had sent to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the deplorable condition of Kurdistan and Eastern Anatolia, and calling especial attention to the recent robbery by Kurds of an Armenian caravan on the road from Erzeroum to Bitlis.

Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of your Excellency's note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 93.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)*

(No. 620.)
*Constantinople, November 14, 1883.*

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 585 of the 23rd ultimo, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo respecting the attitude of the Roman Catholics in that vilayet towards the Armenians.

I have since received a further despatch from Mr. Henderson in which after reiterating his previous statements as regards the sufferings of the Armenians, he states that from information he has received from the Catholicos of Cilicia, in whom he has full confidence, and from other concurrent testimony, it is evident that the promoter of the movement now on foot for the coercion of the Gregorian Armenians and their conversion to Roman Catholicism is the Governor-General, Djemil Pasha.

It appears that his Excellency is at no pains to conceal his sentiments in this matter, and Mr. Henderson quotes several cases in proof of the gross partiality shown by his Excellency in favour of the Roman Catholics at the expense of the Gregorians.

Mr. Henderson, who appears to be on the most friendly terms with the Vali, has lost no opportunity of endeavouring to persuade his Excellency that the line of policy he is following so energetically has no justification, and that it will probably end in a renewal of the deplorable scenes of 1878-79, which gave the Vilayet of Aleppo at that time so unenviable a notoriety, but his representations have been of no avail.

In Mr. Henderson's opinion there are only two remedies which would put an end to the present state of affairs. One, the recall of the Governor-General, and the other, the removal of the Mutessariflik of Marash from his Excellency's influence by its creation into an administrative sandjak and the appointment of a proper person as Mutessarif.



Bearing in mind the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 251 of the 4th July last, I lost no time in communicating the substance of Mr. Henderson's despatch to the Grand Vizier, and I made a strong appeal to his Highness in favour of that gentleman's second suggestion, particularly calling his Highness' attention to the incompetence and ignorance of the Mutessarif of Marash.

His Highness met my representations on this head by the statement that the individual in question had already been dismissed from his post; but it is evident from the tone of his remarks that there will be considerable difficulty in bringing about the recall of Djemil Pasha, as he is the son of Namik Pasha, who is one of the Sultan's most favoured courtiers. I will, however, watch for a favourable opportunity of again mooting the point of this official's recall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 94.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)*

(No. 621.)
*Constantinople, November 14, 1883.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's despatch No. 534 of the 17th September last, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I recently received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum reporting that a certain Moussa Bey had been identified as one of the assailants in the attack made upon Mr. Knapp in May last.

I have now received a despatch from Colonel Everett on this subject, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, stating that unless very strong pressure is brought to bear upon the Sublime Porte, there is but little likelihood that Moussa Bey will ever be brought to justice.

Mr. Heap, the American Chargé d'Affaires, to whom I communicated a copy of Colonel Everett's despatch, has made a fresh representation to the Sublime Porte on the subject, and he tells me that he is doing all in his power to obtain the dismissal of the Vali of Bitlis.

In a former despatch, No. 591 of the 26th ultimo, I have already informed your Lordship that the Council of Ministers had forwarded, on the strength of my previous representations, a recommendation to the Palace to this effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 94.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 47.)
*Erzeroum, October 26, 1883.*

My Lord,

ON the receipt of Mr. Wyndham's despatch of the 18th ultimo, I wrote to Bitlis for information as to the effect produced there by General Wallace's representations to the Porte.

By the last mail I received a letter from Mr. Knapp, dated the 15th October, in which he tells me that the Vali intimated to him that his case had been referred to Constantinople, and that Moussa Bey was to be summoned for his identification. "But," Mr. Knapp adds, "that promise has not been performed, and my interpreter tells me that unless the Pasha assures the Bey that he will certainly escape punishment he will never come in response to any summons whatever. I have no hope, nor have any of my friends, that this Pasha will ever do anything in this matter."

From the knowledge which we possess of Aarif Effendi's character, it may fairly be presumed that he will not do anything beyond perhaps asking a handsome present from Moussa Bey as the price of his inaction, but it is to be hoped that the United States' Minister will not allow the matter to drop.

I wish, indeed, his Excellency could see his way to obtain the dismissal of this official, and so rid the country of as thorough a scoundrel as ever disgraced Turkish administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 95.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)*

(No. 624.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 15, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Eyres to Colonel Everett, reporting the profanation by Mussulmans of Christian churches in Van, amongst others that belonging to the American Missionary Society, and recording the steps he has taken to obtain the punishment of the offenders.

I have brought the substance of Mr. Eyres' despatch to the notice of the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, and his Highness has promised me that he will himself address a strong letter to the Vali of Van on the subject, with instructions to do all in his power to bring the offenders to justice, and to prevent the occurrence of such acts in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 95.

*Mr. Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Van, October 1, 1883.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Armenian population of Van has been thrown into a great state of excitement during the last week, by their churches having been defiled on three successive nights. Six weeks ago one church was profaned in a like manner, and no steps having been taken by the authorities to discover the perpetrators of the deed, it is supposed the latter have become emboldened by impunity to repeat the process.

On Friday last Dr. Reynolds, one of the American missionaries, made a complaint to me that his church had been treated in a like manner. I therefore paid an official visit to the Governor-General, and demanded the detection and the punishment of the guilty persons. His Excellency assured me he was doing all in his power to bring about this result, but that it was no easy matter. I replied that it was perfectly well known among a certain class of Turks who were the offenders, and that, if sufficient pressure were brought to bear on the Notables of the quarters in which the churches were situated, the matter would come to light. His Excellency again promised to do all in his power and to keep me informed of his proceedings.

The whole occurrence is most unfortunate, as the Armenians are from day to day becoming more sullen and more desperate. If the Governor-General does not adopt energetic measures to remove the causes of the smouldering discontent, there is but too much reason to fear that it will soon burst into flame.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. EYRES.

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No. 96.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 409.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 30, 1883.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 620 of the 14th instant, and I have to express the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have heard of the dismissal of the Mutessarif of Marash, to whose incompetence your Excellency had called the attention of the Sublime Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 97.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 412.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 30, 1883.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 624 of the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Eyres to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the profanation by Mussulmans of Christian churches at Van; and I have to state that Her Majesty's Government approve of your Excellency's having made representations to the Porte on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 98.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 3, 1·15 P.M.)*

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1883, 11 A.M.*

THE Armenian prisoners at Sivas have been liberated at the instance of this Embassy, as has also Johannes Vartabed.

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No. 99.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)*

(No. 644.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 22, 1883.*

ON several occasions recently both the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and another Turkish functionary have mentioned to me their alarm at intelligence they have received, and which they believe to be correct, of large military preparations on the part of the Russian Government at Tiflis.

Considering it a favourable opportunity for doing so, I have again insisted with each of these officials in turn on the obvious necessity of conciliating the good-will and fidelity of the populations along the eastern frontier of the Empire. As long, I said, as these communities are the victims of such horrible misgovernment and injustice, which are depopulating their villages, rendering their roads impassable, and impoverishing whole vilayets, their righteous discontent and disaffection will afford both a temptation and an excuse for Russian aggression.

But it is needless for me to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of language which I have already so often had occasion to report to you. Suffice it to say, that on this, as on every other occasion which presents itself, I have never ceased to warn those with whom I have been brought into contact, whether at the Porte or the Palace, and who are in a position to influence the conduct of public affairs, of the danger of the existing situation, and to urge such measures as can alone preserve the Empire from further disintegration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 100.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 5.)*

(No. 649.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 24, 1883.*

IN my despatch No. 624 of the 15th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs had addressed a strong letter to the Vali of Van respecting the profanation of the Christian churches in that town, with instructions to do all in his power to bring the offenders to justice, and prevent the recurrence of such acts in the future.

I have now been informed that as no reply has been received to the above letter



PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Aarifi Pasha has addressed a further telegram to the Vali, peremptorily ordering his Excellency to carry out his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN

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No. 101.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 431.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1883.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 644 of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the alarm expressed to you by the Turkish Ministers at the intelligence they have received of military preparations on the part of the Russian Government at Tiflis.

Her Majesty's Government approve of your Excellency having taken this opportunity of impressing upon the Turkish officials the necessity of conciliating the populations on the eastern frontier of the Empire by the introduction of the necessary reforms in the government of those districts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 102.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December* 19.)

(No. 666.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 9, 1883.

I AM happy to be able to inform your Lordship that, at the instance of this Embassy, the Armenians imprisoned at Sivas have been liberated, as has also the Armenian ecclesiastic named Ohannes Vartabed, to whose case I referred in my despatch No. 609 of the 10th November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 103.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December* 19.)

E
(No. 671. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to state that, in consequence of further reports which have been recently furnished to this Embassy indicative of continued misgovernment in Armenia, I caused the attention of the Minister for Foreign Affairs to be directed to the subject, and I pointed out the hopelessness of expecting to see an amelioration of the present position of affairs in that part of the Empire so long as its administration is left in the hands of incompetent Governors.

His Highness admitted the justice of this remark, but observed that the difficulties of the situation were considerably increased by the conduct of Russian agents, who are carrying on active intrigues amongst the Armenians, and encouraging them to make the most of the grievances under which they are labouring. The Porte is anxious to remedy the existing evils, and to provide the Armenians with a good and peaceful government; but it is powerless to check the conduct of intriguing Russian agents, and, under these circumstances, His Highness suggested that Her Majesty's Government might take an opportunity of addressing remonstrances to the Russian Government with regard to the action of its officials. I pointed out to the Grand Vizier that the initiative in such a matter rested with the Ottoman Government, which, when taxing a foreign Power with intriguing against it, should lose no opportunity of removing all cause of complaint against its own administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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No. 104.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December* 19.)

(No. 674.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 589 of the 20th October last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Everett, inclosing a further despatch from Mr. Eyres relative to the Mazbata forwarded to the Russian Government by the Armenians and Nestorians of Hakkiari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 56. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* 28, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of a despatch from Mr. Eyres, forwarding further details respecting the Mazbata which he stated in his despatch No. 11 of the 8th ultimo had been drawn up by the Armenians and Nestorians of Hakkiari. From these it appears that it is only the people of Elpak (Albak) who have at present adopted this measure.

Albak is a frontier district lying immediately to the south of Kotur, and contains a Christian population numbering about 10,700 souls, of whom 8,300 are Armenians and the remainder Nestorians. The chief town is Bashkaleh.

Your Excellency will observe that Mr. Eyres states that the appearance of Major Kamsaragan at Bashkaleh was probably connected with the Mazbata.

In a letter which I lately received from the Rev. Rudolph Wahl (agent for the Archbishop of Canterbury among the Nestorians), dated from Dizza, in the district of Gevver, immediately to the south of Elpak, he says, "The Russians have sent to the Nestorians a Mission of five persons in priestly disguise to open schools for the Nestorians, headed by a Consul to back and support it."

It is possible that this is an exaggeration, and that Mr. Wahl's informant may have mistaken Major Kamsaragan's party for missionaries. On this point I am expecting further information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

*Vice-Consul Eyres to Lieutenant-Colonel Everett.*

(No. 21. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, November* 20, 1883.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 20th ultimo, requesting further details with regard to the Mazbata drawn up by the Christians in the Vilayet of Hakkiari, I have the honour to inform you that about three months ago the chief people of the Nestorian and Armenian population of the district of Elpak held a meeting and decided to adopt the Russian Orthodox Church, in order to obtain, if possible, by this means the protection of the Russian Government from the depredations of the Kurd and the oppressions of the local authorities.

One of the principal causes which decided the Christians to take this step was the arrest and imprisonment of Ohannes Vartabed (see despatch No. 15 of the 23rd October), who had always had the courage to stand between the people and their tyrants. This shameful act of injustice on the part of Hadji Mustafa Effendi, President of the Criminal Court of Bashkaleh, reduced the people to despair and made them resolve to adopt a measure which would, as they imagined, deliver them from such tyranny. Some other considerations had weight in inducing many of the people to accede to this course of action. It was said that before long Russia would

certainly invade the country, and that those who were of the Orthodox Church would then be in much greater favour with the new-comers than the rest of the people, and, further, it was suggested that the adoption of the Russian religion would, in all probability, hasten the invasion to which the great majority of the Nestorians look forward with undisguised anxiety. The quarter from which these suggestions are made may readily be divined, but I cannot discover that any recognized Russian agents have lately been travelling in those parts.

The conclave of Notables finally decided to send a Mazbata to the Russian Government declaring their resolution to adopt the Orthodox faith, and asking that protection might be afforded them, and priests and teachers sent to guide them in their new path. The document was accordingly signed by 500 Notables in the name of the people of Elpak, and sent to Tiflis viâ Persia.

It was, in all probability, in connection with this Mazbata that Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul at Van, who lately went on leave of absence to Tiflis, suddenly appeared at Bashkaleh, accompanied by a member of the staff.

Major Kamsaragan went from Bashkaleh to Nurduz, and thence to Shadakh and Sert, according to information received here, and it is rumoured that he arranged a meeting with the Patriarch Marshimoun, but I have not received as yet sufficiently reliable information to be able to state this as a fact. The Governor-General of Van, however, was so disturbed at the appearance of the Russian Consul in those parts that he sent a body of cavalry to intercept and invite him to return to Van or to Russia. The Consul has not as yet complied with this invitation, but he wrote a letter to the Governor-General, and is now returning hither shortly by way of Bitlis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

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No. 105.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 675.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 12, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Everett, reporting the establishment of a Russian Consul at Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure in No. 105.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Everett to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 57. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, November* 28, 1883.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that M. Khartzoff, late a Secretary in the Russian Embassy at Constantinople, and now Russian Consul at Mosul, has passed through this city *en route* for his post.

The subject would be without interest were it not that (as I am informed by the Russian Consul-General) this is the first time a Russian Consul has been appointed to that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

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No. 106.

*The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 686. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 15, 1883.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 620, Confidential, of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, inclosing a Memorandum drawn up by the Catholicos of Sis upon the state of affairs in Marash.



On the receipt of Mr. Henderson's despatch I addressed a *pro-memorid* to the Sublime Porte, giving the substance of the Memorandum in question, and at the same time I suggested to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs the advisability of sending private instructions to the Mutessarif of Marash respecting the inexpediency of the line of conduct followed by his predecessor towards the Gregorian Armenians of that district. As, however, I found that it was not in his Highness' power to adopt such a course, I took an opportunity of bringing the matter to the notice of the Minister of the Interior.

In reply to my representations, Edhem Pasha stated that, in his opinion, such a step would be unnecessary, as the Mutessarif who had originally given rise to the complaints in question had already been dismissed and replaced by a man in whose administrative ability and good qualities his Highness had every confidence.

Edhem Pasha proceeded to inform me that, in reply to a communication which had been addressed to Djemil Pasha on the strength of a previous representation from Her Majesty's Embassy, he had just received a reply from that official, in which he denied that, either in his own person or through the agency of the ex-Mutessarif, he had ever encouraged religious animosities between the Gregorian and the Roman Catholic Armenians, and begged to be informed on what grounds and on whose authority such an accusation had been brought against him.

In conclusion, Edhem Pasha observed that the Catholicos of Sis was a constant source of trouble to the Sublime Porte, owing to the active protection he was known to afford to notorious brigands in the district of Marash, and that, at the request of the Sublime Porte, the Armenian Patriarch had on several occasions remonstrated with him on his conduct in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

*Consul Henderson to the Earl of Dufferin.*

My Lord, *Aleppo, November* 12, 1883.

THE Armenian Bishop called on me a day or two ago, and placed in my hands a very long Memorandum from the Catholicos of Sis on the state of affairs at Marash. I inclose copies of this Memorandum in Turkish and French.

The Bishop gave me an alarming account of the excited state of feeling at Marash and Zeitoun in consequence of the Mutessarif's conduct and said he greatly feared a collision between the the inhabitants of the mountain villages near Zeitoun and the military.

I telegraphed the substance of this Memorandum to your Excellency, and I have since received your Excellency's telegram announcing the dismissal of Toussun Pasha.

If Marash is to remain under the jurisdiction of Djamil Pasha it would be most desirable that the Porte should give the new Mutessarif stringent and explicit instructions for his conduct at this difficult and inflammable post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

*Memorandum from Catholicos of Sis to Consul Henderson.*

(Traduction.)

DES nouvelles sûres recueillies à Marache résulte que la direction du Gouvernement de cette ville se trouve entre les mains des Catholiques, des Jésuites et des Latins, grâce au Moutessarif, Toussun Pacha.

La nomination du susdit Pacha comme Moutessarif a Marache est contraire à la loi; car il ne sait ni lire ni écrire.

Malgré que dans ce temps-ci l'État a nommé des Tribunaux pour juger le peuple avec justice, le Moutessarif de Marache jouit d'un pouvoir absolu, comme les Begs qui existaient depuis soixante ans.

Les actions du Moutessarif susdit ne sont point acceptables et cela provient de ses anciennes habitudes.

Tous les habitants de Marache en général sans compter les Catholiques, ne peuvent plus supporter le joug du Moutessarif susdit; aussi dernièrement les employés du Gouvernement avec les membres du Midjless-el-Adara présentèrent télégraphiquement à Constantinople et au Vali Pacha leurs plaintes contre le Moutessarif susdit. Mais nous ne savons pas conformément à quelle loi le Vali sans faire vérifications et sans aucune forme de procès et quoique jusqu'à présent il n'est pas encore arrivé de réponse de Constantinople, le Vali, disons-nous, destitua de leurs fonctions le Mouhassabagi, le Tahrirat-Moudiri, le Président de la Municipalité et les membres du Tribunal-el-Adara; Ata Effendi Zada Hadji Omar Effendi, Kara Koutchouk Zada Mahmoud Effendi, Georgian Davlet Effendi, et Roubian Sarkiss Effendi; le Cadi, le Moufti, et l'Evêque Arménien, membres naturels du susdit Tribunal, ont été chagrinés et traités si indignement que vraiment leur sort causa un grand regret à tout le monde.

Les Catholiques et les Européens, c'est-à-dire les Latins, jouissent d'un excellent sort, car leur Evêque, homme extraordinaire, va tous les jours au domicile du Moutessarif. Là, dans un entrevu privé dans une chambre fermée, il lui donne pendant des heures les informations nécessaires. Le Moutessarif se déclare le soutien des Catholiques et des Latins, et leur aide dans les affaires. Nous croyons que si l'État avait envoyé un Moutessarif spécialement pour les Catholiques, il n'aurait pas montré tant de partialité, car le susdit Moutessarif a déclaré publiquement que c'est grâce à lui que les Catholiques jouissent d'une position si excellente; et cela est bien vrai; car au Yahiza-Kala, une village de 150 maisons dont 15 sont Latines et toutes les autres Arméniennes, se passèrent les faits suivants. Le Moutessarif, contre les Arméniens, avait réclamé des habitants du village susdit des dettes nulles qui datent depuis dix à quinze ans, de la somme de 70,000 à 80,000 piastres. Pour l'encaissement de cette somme fut nommé un Tchaviche nommé Ibrahim, homme cruel et sans conscience. Celui-ci accompagné de cinq à dix zaptiés partit pour le susdit village, et suivant les instructions et les instances de l'Evêque, il réunit tous les habitants du village, et commença à les interroger publiquement un à un: "A quelle religion appartenez-vous?" Pour celui qui répond qu'il est Arménien le Tchaviche donne des ordres: "Prenez ce *cafer* (homme sans religion) et mettez-le à l'écurie." Mais à celui qui dit qu'il est Européen ou Catholique, il répond: "Allez chez vous en paix." Ainsi donc tous les Arméniens furent mis en prison. Ces pauvres gens ainsi persécutés et traités avec mépris et indignation se virent obligés de devenir tous Latins, à l'exception de trois ou cinq maisons. Dès lors les zaptiés les firent sortir de la prison et ne leur firent plus aucune réclamation d'argent.

D'après cela on comprend bien à quel point la persécution est dirigée contre les pauvres Arméniens.

Les zaptiés qui partent aux villages pour encaisser les dettes de l'État, ils y restent dix à vingt jours; pendant ce délai de temps ils se font donner par les villageois, en employant la force, leur manger et boire, de l'orge pour leurs chevaux, et tout ce qui leur est nécessaire, et encaissent avec persécution le triple de leurs demandes. A Yanija-Kalat et à Acbaz et dans divers endroits, les prêtres Jésuites bâtissent, sans aucun obstacle de la part de l'autorité locale, des monastères, des églises, des écoles et des hôpitaux sans aucune permission et sans aucun ordre officiel. . . . . Dans ces jours à Yanija-Kalat, les Jésuites cherchèrent à tourner, pour les faire passer dans leurs monastères, les courants d'eau qui passent dans les maisons, champs et églises des Arméniens. Ceux-ci s'y opposèrent, alors les prêtres les frappèrent cruellement, et chaque fois que les Arméniens se plaignent au Moudir de la localité, celui-ci leur répond: "Ce sont des Européens; je ne puis rien faire." Les Arméniens se virent obligés de porter leurs plaintes au Moutessarif de Marache, et après plusieurs prières et supplications celui-ci leur répondit qu'il a écrit un ordre pour les faire venir à Marache et qu'il a signifié leurs plaintes au Tribunal criminel; il leur dit ainsi pour les renvoyer. Mais l'Évêque des Catholiques vint aussi à son tour et suspendit l'affaire entièrement.

L'un des Notables de la ville, acheteur de dîmes, doit à l'État depuis vingt-cinq ans la somme de 6,000 piastres; de cette somme il n'y avait pas chance d'encaisser 5 paras. Le Moutessarif le mit en prison; alors le chef religieux et les membres du Midjless-el-Adara à plusieurs reprises prièrent le Moutessarif de le faire sortir sous garant et que le débiteur après avoir présenté une requête payerait l'argent si le Tribunal le condamne au paiement. Mais le Moutessarif ne prit pas en considération leur demande. Après l'avoir laissé en prison quinze jours, en présence de tous les membres du Tribunal, un envoyé de la part de l'Évêque Catholique se présenta et dit au Moutessarif:



"L'Évêque vous présente ses compliments et vous prie de faire sortir de la prison Tobal Oghli Ohanes et de le lui envoyer." Alors le Moutessarif, pour marquer son mépris contre les Arméniens, le fit sortir de la prison et le lui livra, et depuis lors il ne lui fit aucune réclamation d'argent.

Aussi il se trouva un prêtre qui, par manque d'honnêteté, vola 15,000 piastres des revenus du monastère. Après vérifications celui-ci fut puni en le renvoyant de la prêtrise; alors il se convertit au Catholicisme, et l'Évêque des Catholiques le soutint à tel point que nos plaintes au Moutessarif pour nous faire encaisser notre argent restèrent infructueuses, et le Moutessarif pour faire plaisir à l'Évêque, non seulement délivra le coupable de la punition qu'exige la loi, mais encore la somme volée ne nous fut pas rendue, et le Moutessarif tâche toujours d'annuler les droits de notre Église et du monastère.

Pour cela chaque homme qui accepte le Pape et entre sous sa protection, s'il est meurtrier ou dans quel cas où il se trouve, il lui est pardonné et acquiert son entière liberté.

Il est impossible de peindre le manque de bonté du Moutessarif dans l'encaissement du Vergou, contrairement à la loi et à la volonté du Sultan. Nous pouvons dire que depuis vingt à trente ans nous n'avons vu dans ce pays un chef aussi cruel et d'une langue aussi amère. Plusieurs pauvres furent mis en prison quinze jours pour 5 piastres de Vergou, et aussi des pauvres parce qu'ils doivent 10 à 15 piastres, ils ont vu, devant leurs propres yeux, vendre leurs bêtes de somme ou bien leurs lits à moitié prix aux enchères. . . . . Cela leur porte un grand retardement pour pourvoir aux besoin de leurs familles; et aussi des exemples et cas pareils sont nombreux. Il suffit de ce que nous venons de dire et nous le transmettons à l'appréciation de votre bonté.

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No. 107.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 445.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December 29, 1883.*

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the continued misgovernment in Armenia, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 671 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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